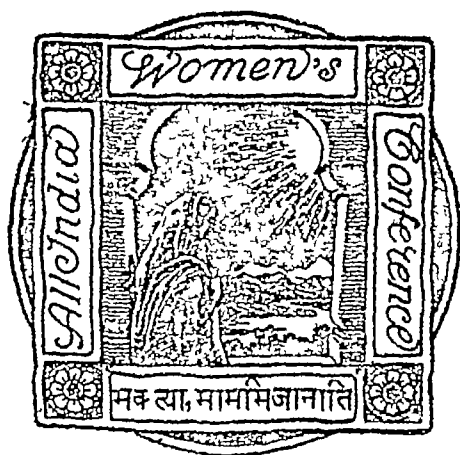


All - India Women's Conference

TWELFTH SESSION



NAGPUR

28th to 31st December
1937

All - India Women's Conference

TWELFTH SESSION

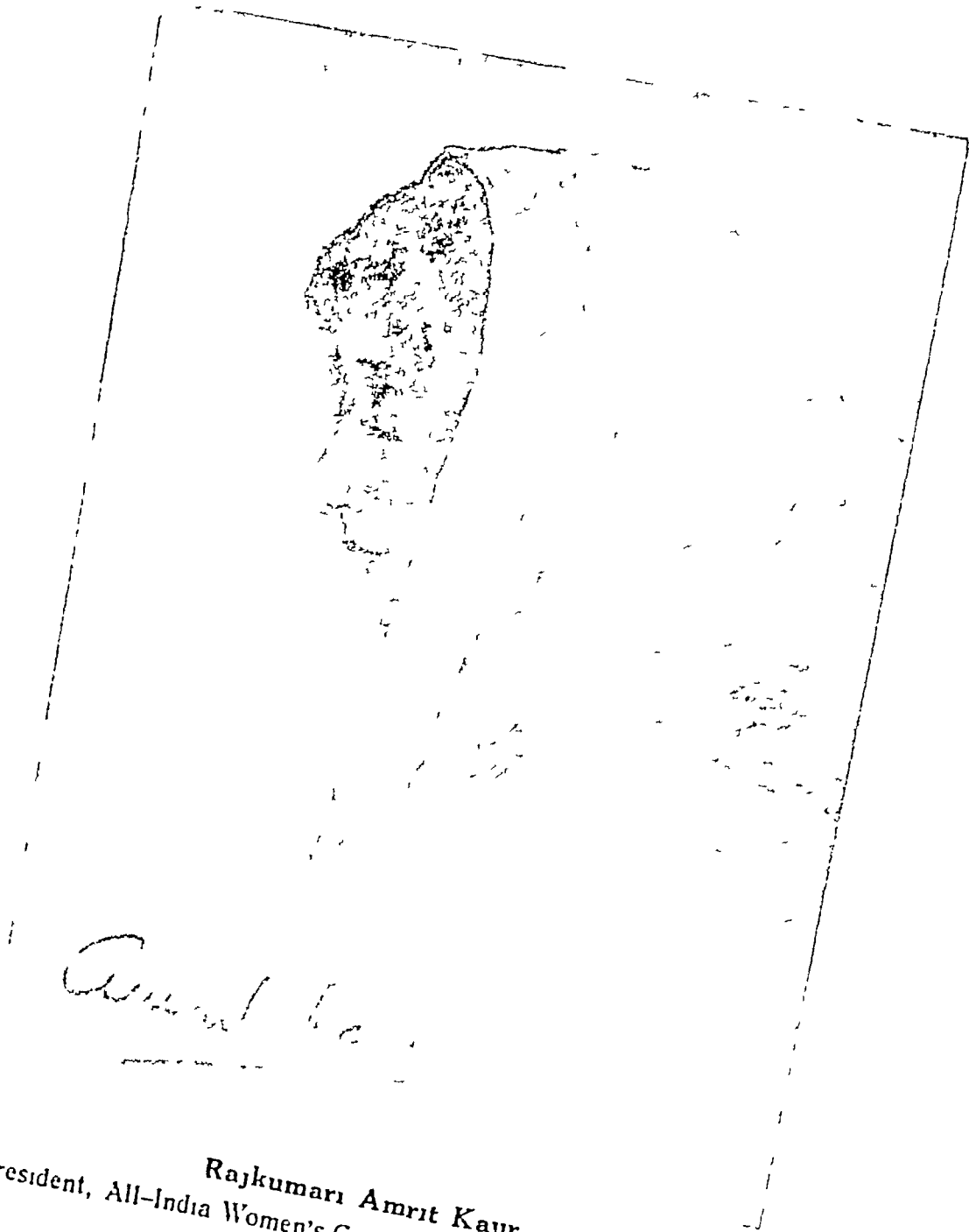


NAGPUR

28th to 31st December
1937

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Rajkumari Amrit Kaur,
President, All-India Women's Conference, Nagpur Session, 1937

CONTENTS

| | Page |
|--|-------|
| nesses of the All-India Women's Conference | 1 |
| of Names of Chairwomen and Hon Organising Secretaries from 1926-1937 | 2 |
| ce-Bearers of the All-India Women's Conference | 3 |
| bers of the Standing Committee 1938 | 4 |
| Associates, Liaison Officer, International Alliance, League of Nations | 6 |
| of Delegates to the Twelfth Session of the A. I. W. C. 1937 | 9 |
| rogramme of the Twelfth Session of the A. I. W. C. | 11 |
| ning Day's Proceedings | 14 |
| come Address by Lady Chitnavis | 15 |
| sages from Far and Near | 23 |
| ual Report of the Hon Organising Secretary | 32 |
| idential Address of Rajkumari Amrit Kaur | |
| er Addresses— | |
| The Hon'ble Dt N. B. Khare, Seth Jamnalal Bajaj, Sir Moropant V. Joshi, The Hon'ble Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, Sir Hari Singh Gour, Mrs. Grace Lankester, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu. | |
| st Sitting of the A. I. W. C... | 44 |
| ond Sitting of the A. I. W. C. | 44 |
| rd Sitting of the A. I. W. C. | 52 |
| irth Sitting of the A. I. W. C. | 64 |
| h Sitting of the A. I. W. C. .. | 79 |
| h Sitting of the A. I. W. C. | 97 |
| ction of Office-Bearers | 106 |
| cluding Remarks—President and Chairwoman | 107-8 |
| olutions passed at Nagpur | 111 |
| ional and Sub-Committee Reports | |
| Report of the Education Section | 119 |
| Report of the Social Section | 122 |
| Liaison Officer's (India) Report | 127 |
| Liaison Officer's (England) Report | 129 |
| Report of the Literacy Sub-CommitteeX | 133 |
| Report of the Labour Sub-CommitteeX | 140 |
| Report of the Common Language Sub-Committee | 142 |
| Report of the Health Sub-Committee | 142 |
| Report of the Anti-Child Marriage Sub-Committee . | 144 |
| Report of the Indigenous Industries Sub-CommitteeX | 145 |
| Report of the Harijan Sub-Committee ... | 146 |
| Report of the Special Committee on Legal Disabilities . | 147 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Report of the Legislation Sub-Committee .. | 149 |
| Report of the Franchise Sub-Committee . | 150 |
| Important Resolutions passed at Previous Sessions .. | 158 |
| Statement regarding Registration | 194 |
| Constitution of the A. I. W. C. | 195 |
| Bye-Laws and Regulation | 198 |
| Duties of Standing Committee Members . | 204 |
| Rules of Procedure | 207 |
| Rules for Guidance for the Starting of New Constituencies . | 212 |
| Draft Budget for 1937-38 | 215 |
| Balance Sheet for 1936-37 | 216 |
| Appendix A—Provisional Time table . | 218 |
| Appendix B—Sectional and Sub-Committees . | 220 |
| Appendix C—List of Constituent and Sub Constituent Conferences . | 224 |
| Appendix D—List of Presidents and Secretaries of Constituent Committees .. | 226 |
| Appendix E—List of Constituent and Sub-Constituent Areas . | 227 |
| Appendix F—Memorandum of Association of the All-India Women's Education Fund Association .. | 229 |
| Appendix G—History of the All-India Women's Conference . | 238 |
| Appendix H—Nikahnamah | 247 |
| Appendix I—Messages | 249 |

PHOTOGRAPHS AND MAPS.

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, President, A. I. W. C. 1937 | Frontispiece |
| Lady Parvatibai Chitnavis, Chairwoman, Reception Committee Nagpur .. . | 11 |
| Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan, Chairwoman, Standing Committee, 1937 | 108 |
| Rajkumari Amrit Kaur and the Hon'ble Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit | 194 |
| Band of Young Musicians awaiting the arrival of the President-Elect .. | 194 |
| Map of India showing the Constituent Areas of the All-India Women's Conference .. | 228 |

PATRONESSES
of the
ALL-INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Lady Dorothy Halifax

Her Highness the Maharani of Baroda

Her Highness Maimuna Sultana, the Begum of Bhopal

The Consort of His Highness the Maharaja of Cochin

H. H. Maharani Sucharu Devi of Mayurbhanj

The Rani of Vizianagram

Her Highness the Dowager Rani of Mandi

Mrs Sarojini Naidu

Dr. Mrs. Muthulakshmi Reddi

Mrs P K Roy

Lady Ramanbhai Nilkanth

Lady Abdul Qadir

Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji

H. H. Maharani Setu Parvati Bayi of Travancore

Mrs M E. Cousins.

Names of Chairwomen and Hon. Organising Secretaries form 1926-1937

| Year | Chairwoman | Hon. Organising Secretary. |
|------|--------------------------|---|
| 1926 | — | Mrs. M. E. Cousins. |
| 1927 | Mrs. M. E. Cousins | Mrs. Kamala Devi Chattopadhyay |
| 1928 | Begum Hamid Ali | " " " |
| 1929 | Mrs. Huidekoper | " " " |
| 1930 | Mrs. Sushama Sen | Mrs. Kamala Devi, Mrs. Sushama Sen and Rani Lakshmi Bai Rajwade |
| 1931 | Rajkumari Amrit Kaur | Rani Lakshmi Bai Rajwade. |
| 1932 | " " " | " " " |
| 1933 | Dr. Mathulakshmi Reddi | " " " |
| 1934 | Rani Lakshmi Bai Rajwade | Mrs. S. C. Mukerjee |
| 1935 | " " " | " " " |
| 1936 | Mrs. S. C. Mukerjee | Mrs. Ammu Swaminadhan |
| 1937 | Mrs. Ammu Swaminadhan | Mrs. Dina Asana |

OFFICE-BEARERS OF THE ALL-INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE FOR 1938.

President.

✓ Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Jullundur City, Punjab.

Vice-Presidents.

- ✓ Rani Lakshmbai Rajwade, Gwalior, C I
- ✓ Mrs Ramabai Tambe, Amraoti Road, Nagpur.
- ✓ Mrs S C Mukerjee, 25/1, Rowland Road, Calcutta.
- ✓ The Hon'ble Mrs Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, Anand Bhavan, Allahabad
- ✓ Begum Hamid Ali, C/o Bank of Baroda, Baroda.
- ✓ Mrs Ammu Swaminadhan, Gilchrist Gardens, Chetput, Madras.

Chairwoman.

✓ Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Jullundur City, Punjab.

Hon Organising Secretary.

✓ Mrs. Dina Asana, Opposite Gujarat College Ahmedabad.

Educational Section Secretary.

Miss Z Lazarus, Tumkur, Mysore State.

Social Section Secretary.

✓ Mrs Sharadaben Mehta, Pritamnagar, Ellis Bridge, Ahmedabad.

Hon Treasurer.

Mrs. G. R Billimoria, Thoburn House, Apollo Bunder, Bombay

Liaison Officer.

Mrs S N Ray, 10, Camac Street, Calcutta

Conveners of Sub-Committees

- Constitution — Miss Leilamani Naidu, The Golden Threshold, Hyderabad (Dn.)
- Common Language — Miss D. B Hasan, Latif Mazil, Panipat, Punjab.
- Health — Dr. Malimbai Sukthankar, Shantaram House, Malabar Hill, Bombay,
- Anti-Child Marriage — Mrs. Saudamini Mehta, 24, Ray Street, Calcutta
- Harijan — Mrs Brijlal Nehru, 2, Wornis Road, Lahore
- Opium & other Narcotic Drugs — Begum Hamid Ali, C/o Bank of Baroda, Baroda
- Special Committee on Legal Disabilities — Mrs. J. R. Doctor, Hirji Mansion, 93, Gowalia Tank Road, P. O. Malabar Hill, Bombay.
- Legislation — Mrs. Asaf Ali, Cucha Chelan Daryagunge, Delhi.
- Franchise — Rani Lakshmbai Rajwade, Gwalior, C. I
- Labour — Miss J. E. Copeland, Y.W.C.A Asoka Road, New Delhi.
- Indigenous Industries — Mrs Jayashri Rajji, Tulsı Villa, Alexandra Road, Gamdevi, Bombay 7.
- Traffic in Women & Children — Mrs S C. Mukerjee, 9, Lower Rawdon Street, Calcutta.
- Finance — Mrs. G. R. Billimoria, Thoburn House, Apollo Bunder, Bombay.

STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Ajmer-Merwara | Mrs. L. F. Massey, C/o. F. Massey, Esq., Asstt Engineer, B B & C.I.Ry., Ajmer. |
| Andhra | -- Sry. Chandramathi, Member, East Godavari Dt. Education Conncil. Rajahmundry |
| Assam | -- Mrs. A N.M.Saleh, Beauchamp Lodge, Shillong. |
| Bengal East | -- Mrs. I.F.Hasan, Provost's House, Ramna, Dacca. |
| Bengal North | -- |
| Bengal West | -- Mrs. R.N Tagore, Shantiniketan, Bengal |
| Berar | -- Mrs. Sarojini Inamdar, Khaparde Gardens, Amraoti, Berar |
| Bihar | -- Mrs. Vidyawati Varma, C/o. The Hon'ble Justice S.P.Varma, Patna. |
| Bombay | -- Mrs. Urmila Mehta, 15th Road, Khar, Bombay 21. |
| Calcutta | -- Begum Hamida Momin, M.L C , Hamida Hall, Russia, Tollygunge. Calcutta |
| C P North | -- Miss E.J Ennis, B M.Girls' High School, Bilashpur |
| C.P South | -- Mrs. Vimalabai Deshpande, Dhantoli, Nagpur |
| Coorg | -- |
| Delhi | -- Mrs M. B. Kagal, 24, Rotendone Road, New Delhi |
| Gujarat | -- Dr. Kusumaben Dholabhai, C/o. The Railway Medical Officer, B. B. & C. I. Ry., Ahmedabad. |
| Karnatak | -- Mrs. Tarabai Chinmulgund Nerlekar's Bungalow, Dharwar. |
| Konkan | -- Miss A K Cherian, J.E H.School, Alibagh, Dt. Kolaba. |
| Madras | -- Mrs. Mary Clubwala, 54, Main Road. Royapuram, Madras |
| Maharashtra | -- Mrs. Indirabai Maydeo G V. Joshi's Bungalow, Poona. 4 |
| Malabar | -- Miss K.E.Sharada, Chalapuram, Calicut (S Malabar). |
| N.W.F.P | -- Mrs Kazi Mir Ahmed, Ahmed Manzil, Peshawar Cantt. |
| Orissa | -- Miss S B.Das, Madhu-Smriti, Cuttack |
| Punjab Central | -- Miss Premwati Thapor, 1/A Golf Road, Lahore. |
| Punjab East | -- Mrs. P L Sondhi, Dilkhusha, Jullundur City |
| Punjab West | -- |
| Sind | -- Dr K. Tarabai, Bunder Road, Karachi. |
| Tamil Nadu | -- Shrimati Annamanel Danmel, Board Girls' School, Koilpatti, S I Ry |
| U.P. Agra | -- Mrs. Akhtar Hussain, 24, Canning Road, Allahabad |
| U P Oudh | -- Begum Aizaz Rasul, M.L C., Jalalpur Estate, Sandila, U.P. |
| Baroda | -- Mrs. Premila Mehta, C/o. Supdt., R.M.S , Baroda |
| Bhopal | -- |
| Bikanir | -- |
| Cochin | -- Mrs. V.K.Parvathamma, C/o. Srimathi V.K.Droupathiamma, Head Mistress, V.G.School, Trichur (Cochin State). |
| Dhar | -- |
| Gwalior | -- Mrs. Indumati Raja Rajwade, Gwalior, C.I. |

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Hyderabad (Dn) | — Mrs. C. Cornelius, Asaf Jahi Road, Hyderabad (Deccan). |
| Indore | — Mrs. Jyotsna Mehta, 19, Yashwant Nivas Road, Indore, C.I. |
| Jaipur | — |
| Kashmir | — |
| Kolhapur | — Miss Leela Kolhatkar, Shahupuri, Kolhapur State. |
| Kotah | — |
| Mysore | — Mrs. S. Janakiammal, 114, Visweswarapuram, Bangalore City |
| Phaltan | — Mrs. Janakibai Godbole, Phaltan State. |
| Sangli | — Mrs. Sumatibai Gokhale, Extension, Sangli, S.M.C. |
| Travancore | — Miss Sara Pothan, Advocate, Trivandrum. |

Co-opted S. C. Members

| | |
|---|---|
| Hony General Secretary, N C W. I | — Mrs. Keron Bose, 14, Palm Avenue, Ballygunge, Calcutta. |
| President W I A. | — Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi, Besant Avenue, Adyar, Madras. |
| Hony. Secretary, All-India Women's Education Fund Association | — Mrs. Sewa Singh Gill, 6, Jantar Mantar Road, New Delhi. |

Life Associates, A. I. W. C.

| |
|--|
| Mrs. Bakulabai Abhyankar, Civil Lines, Nagpur, C. P. |
| Mrs. Vimalabai Jatur, Civil Lines, Nagpur C.P. |

Liaison Officer between A. I. W. C. and British Women's Societies in England

Mrs. Grace Lankester, 62, Plough Lane, Purley, Surrey, England.

International Alliance of Women

[Since 1935, the All-India Women's Conference has been affiliated to the *International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship*.]

President: Mrs. Corbett Ashby, 33, Upper. Richmond Road,
London, S. W. 15, England.

Headquarters Secretary Mrs. Katherine Bompas,
12, Buckingham Palace Road,
London S. W. 1. England.

League of Nations

[Since June 1937, the A. I. W. C. has been appointed a "Correspondent Member" of the Advisory Committee on Social Questions of the League of Nations].

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| A.I.W.C. Correspondent for the League of Nations | } | Mrs. S.N. Ray, 10, Camac street, Calcutta. |
|---|---|--|

LIST OF DELEGATES, NAGPUR 1937

Andhra

Mrs. M. Venkamma

Assam

Mrs. Ali Ahmed

Baroda

Mrs. Premila Mehta

„ Sarala Mehta

Begum Hamid Ali

Mrs. Vatsalabai Ambegaonkar

„ Vasumati Dharkar

„ Gangubai Patwardhan

Miss Sushila Kumari Pandit

Bengal East

Mrs. S. N. Ray

Berar

Mrs. Sarojini Inamdar

„ Mathurabai Dravid

„ Ambutai Mahajan

„ Banutai Godbole

„ Pramilatai Oke

„ Saralabai Kunte

„ Parvatibai Agashe

„ Indirabai Sathe

„ Manikbai Bhide

„ Mayadevi Bhalchandra

„ Kamlabai Korde

„ Matin Ahmed

Bihar

Mrs. Umabai Muley

Bombay

Mrs. Urmila Mehta

Miss Mehra Masani

„ Khorshed Bhada

Mrs. Gangaben Patel

„ Dahiben Desai

Miss B. A. Engineer

Mrs. Yamnabai Hirlekar

Miss Godavari Gokhale

Mrs. J. R. Doctor

Dr. Mrs. Malinibai Sukthankar

Mrs. G. R. Billimoria

Calcutta

Mrs. Saudamini Mehta

„ S. N. Gupta

Miss Dolly Basu

Begum Hamida Momin, M. L. C.

Mrs. S. C. Mazumdar

Mrs. S. C. Mukerjee

Miss Margaret Wilson

C. P. North

Mrs. H. I. Ahmed

„ Srivastava

Miss P. Ray Choudhary

Mrs. Navlekar

Miss E. J. Ennis

Dr. Mrs. Koshey

Mrs. W. B. Alexander

„ Indirabai Chitale

„ Sushilabai Bhawe

„ Girjabai Agnihotri

C. P. South

Mrs. Sarojini Mehta

„ Cama

„ Sumatibai Deo

„ Dwarakabai Deoskar

„ Kalindibai Patankar

„ Lakshmbai Chitnavis

„ Kusumavati Deshpande

„ Vimalabai Behere

„ Durgabai Manjrekar

„ Jaibai Choudhary

„ Malatibai Bapat

„ Ramabai Kedar

„ Ramabai Tambe

„ Anasuyabai Kale, M. L. A.

„ Sushilabai Kothiwani

Sangli

Mrs. Sumatibai Gokhale
 „ Savitribai Thombre

Miss S. Mathew

Mrs. Janaki Charry
 „ R. Krishna Pillai

Sind

Dr. Mrs. K. Tarabai

U. P. Agra

Mrs. E. F. Vestal

Mrs. E. Higginbottom

The Hon'ble Mrs. Vijayalakshmi
 Pandit

Travancore

Sry. Bhanumati Amma
 Miss Sara Pothan
 Mrs. C. P. Skrine

U. P. Oudh

Begum Aizaz Rasul, M. L. C

Programme

OF THE

Twelfth Session of the All-India Women's Conference, Nagpur—1937-38

| DATE | EVENT | TIME |
|------------------|---|----------------------|
| 25-12-37 | Arrival of Standing and Subjects Committee Members. | |
| <i>Saturday.</i> | Opening of the Exhibition at the Variety Theatre | 6 p.m. |
| 26-12-37 | Arrival of Standing and Subjects Committee Members | |
| <i>Sunday.</i> | Breakfast | 8 a.m. |
| | Standing and Subjects Committee Meeting | |
| | Robertson Hostel, Nagpur | 9-15 a.m. to 12 noon |
| | Lunch, Agricultural College Hostel | 12 noon to 1 p.m. |
| | Standing and Subjects Committee Meeting | 1 to 4 p.m. |
| | Tea | 4-15 p.m. |
| | Standing Committee Meeting | 6 to 8 p.m. |
| | Dinner, Agricultural College Hostel | 8-30 p.m. |
| 27-12-37 | Breakfast | 8 a.m. |
| <i>Monday.</i> | Standing and Subjects Committee Meeting | 8-45 a.m. to 12 noon |
| | Lunch | 12 noon to 1 p.m. |
| | Standing Committee Meeting | 1 to 4 p.m. |
| | Tea | 4-45 p.m. |
| | Standing Committee Meeting | 5 to 8 p.m. |
| | Dinner | 8-30 p.m. |
| | Musical Entertainment | 9-15 p.m. |
| | Arrival of Delegates | |

| | | |
|-------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 28-12-37 | Arrival of Delegates | |
| <i>Tuesday.</i> | Breakfast, Agricultural College Hostel | 8 a.m |
| | Registration of Delegates and distribution of Conference Papers, Robertson Hostel | 9 a.m. to 12 noon. |
| | Lunch, Agricultural College Hostel | 12 noon. |
| | Visit to Glass and Pottery Works | 1 to 3 p.m |
| | Tea | 3-15 p.m. |
| | Opening Session of the Conference at the Pandal | 4 p.m. |
| | Dinner | 8 p.m. |
| | Entertainment by the Students of Nagpur Seva Sadan | 8-45 p.m. |
| 29-12-37 | Breakfast | 8 a.m. |
| <i>Wednesday.</i> | First Sitting of the Conference at the Convo- cation Hall (Reading and ratification of reports) | 8-30 a.m. to 12 noon |
| | Lunch | 12-15 p.m. |
| | Second Sitting (Educational Resolution) | 1-15 to 5 p.m |
| | Tea | 5-15 p.m. |
| | 'At Home', The Ladies' Club, Nagpur | 5-30 p.m |
| | Dinner | 7-15 p.m |
| | A I W.C. Entertainment (By tickets only of Rs 5, 3, 2, 1 each sold at the Enquiry Office, Robertson Hostel) | 8-30 p.m. |
| 30-12-37 | Breakfast | 8 a.m |
| <i>Thursday</i> | Visit to the Blind Boys School and the Shradhanand Anathalya | 8-45 to 10-15 a.m |
| | Third Sitting (Educational and Social Resolu- tions) | 10-30 a.m to 12-30 p.m. |
| | Lunch | 12-45 p.m |
| | Fourth Sitting (Social Resolution) | 1-15 to 4-15 p.m. |
| | Tea | 4-30 p.m. |
| | 'At Home', Mrs. Laxmibai Chitnavis | 5 p.m |
| | Dinner | 7-30 p.m. |
| | Magic Lantern show by Poona Seva Sadan Students | 8-30 p.m. |
| 31-12-37 | Breakfast | 7-30 a.m. |
| <i>Friday</i> | Group Photo | 8-15 a.m |
| | Fifth Sitting (Social and Labour Resolutions) | 9 to 11 a.m |
| | Polling of Office-bearers | 11 a.m. to 12 noon. |

| | | |
|------------------|---|--------------------|
| | Sixth and final Sitting (Work for the ensuing year, Election Results, vote of thanks) | 1.30 to 4 p.m. |
| | 'At Home', Mrs. G Pande | 4.15 p.m. |
| | Physical exercises demonstration by Amraoti Girls | 6-30 p.m. |
| | Dinner | 8 p.m. |
| | Departure of Delegates | |
| 1-1-38 | Breakfast | 7-30 a.m. |
| <i>Saturday.</i> | Departure of Delegates | |
| | Standing Committee Meeting | 9 a m to 12 noon. |
| | Lunch | 12-15 p.m. |
| | Standing Committee Meeting | 1-15 to 4-15 p m |
| | Tea at Lady Chitnavis | 4-15 p.m. |
| | Dinner | 7-30 p.m. |
| 2-1-38 | Breakfast | 8 a m. |
| <i>Sunday</i> | Standing Committee Meeting | 9 a.m. to 12 noon. |
| | Lunch | 12-15 p.m. |
| | Standing Committee Meeting | 1-15 to 4-15 p.m. |
| | Tea | 4-30 p.m. |
| | Dinner | 7-30 p.m. |
| 3-1-38 | Departure of Standing Committee Members and Office-Bearers | |
| <i>Monday.</i> | | |

All Standing Committee meetings will be held at the Robertson Hostel.

All sittings of the Conference will be held at the Convocation Hall, Nagpur.

All Delegates, Standing Committee Members and Visitors will be admitted by Badge.

Visitor's Badges will be available at Re. 1 each for all the sittings from after the opening Session.

The All-India Women's Conference Exhibition will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. from 25-12-37 to 1-1-38.

Exhibits from Constituencies will also be included.

Tickets for the Entertainment on the 29th and the 30th December will be sold at the Enquiry Office, Robertson Hostel, Nagpur.

ALL WOMEN ARE URGED TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE.

Opening Day's Proceedings

(28th December 1937)

The Twelfth Annual Session of the All-India Women's Conference opened in the afternoon of 28th December 1937, at the Robertson Hostel Ground at Nagpur amidst scenes of great and unprecedented enthusiasm. The neatly decorated pandal was packed to its fullest capacity with an audience of over four thousand men and women which presented a gorgeous and thrilling spectacle. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, the President-elect of the Conference, after passing through the Guard of honour, was received by the Chairwoman and members of the Reception and Standing Committee, and was loudly cheered by all assembled, specially the delegates. The whole atmosphere presented a scene of unique magnificence. The presence of Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, our constant source of strength and inspiration, of the Hon'ble Mrs. Vijaya Laxmi Pandit, the first woman Minister in India, and of Mrs. Grace Lankester, our Liaison Officer in England, who came all the way from England, deserves special notice. Over 150 Delegates represented the 38 Constituencies and over 100 Sub-Constituencies of the All-India Women's Conference, including those of distant Assam and Travancore. It was a pleasure to see delegates of all castes and creeds and races meet together at one place, and inspired by the high ideal of the betterment of the women of India.

Prominent among the local visitors were the Hon'ble Dr. N. B. Khare, Prime Minister of the Central Provinces and Berar, Seth Jamnalal Bajaj, Sir Moropant V. Joshi, Dr. Sir Harisingh Gour, The Hon'ble Pandit Ravishankar Shukla, Minister for Education, the Hon'ble Mr. D. K. Mehta, the Hon'ble Pandit D. P. Misra, Mr. T. J. Kedar, Vice-Chancellor of the Nagpur University, and many others.

After an inspiring song in Marathi, specially prepared for the occasion, was over, Begum Hamid Ali, in proposing Rajkumari Amrit Kaur to the Chair, said -

" On behalf of the Chairwoman of the All-India Women's Conference, Madam, I welcome you to-day as our president-elect and ask you to take the chair. We have been working with you as your colleagues for many years and we know you very well indeed, and everyone who comes into contact with you has not only come to love you but has the

greatest admiration for your intellectual attainments. You are one of the few women, most forward women of India, of whom our country may well be proud. It is an honour that you have conferred on us by accepting to guide our deliberations for the following year. This happens to be a very delicate time for our Conference, but, I am sure, under your able guidance we shall go forward from step to step and take our Part in the new awakening of India, and do everything to bring our country into a line with other countries of the world. I again welcome you today most heartily on behalf of all the delegates and ask you to take the chair".

Mrs S. N. Ray seconded the proposition, and said - In seconding this resolution asking our distinguished President to take the Chair this evening, I should like to say that it is only fitting that one who has won our hearts should to-day be given the greatest honour that it is in the power of this conference to bestow. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur has enhanced the grace and prestige of this conference, and we all know and feel in our hearts, that the All India Women's Conference brings to our minds immediately the personality of Rajkumari Amrit Kaur. Her unique ability, her magnetic personality, her innate courtesy, her tact, have all compelled our admiration and our love. Those who have been delegates to this conference year after year, and those who have worked with her, know that she has been the centre of all our activities, and that it is to her that we owe the success of our conference so largely. We know that not only in India but in many other countries, she has raised the position of this conference. When she went with Begum Hamid Ali and Dr. Reddi as our representatives to the Joint Select Committee, she and her colleagues evoked the admiration of the whole world for the women of India by their solidarity and their unity. At a time when our men were torn by strifes, when communal and bitter jealousies rent them, these three women demonstrated to the world that Indian women were not actuated even by causes of their well-being, but that it was the common good of our country that they were seeking for. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, in seconding the resolution asking you to take the Chair to-day, I should like to say that it is your inspiration that guides us, and we feel that it is due to you that our conference has gone ahead from strength to strength so largely. To-day we also realise that we must make contact in the villages with our sisters, who perhaps have not had the opportunities that we had. As Convener for the Rural Reconstruction Sub-Committee, you have not only given us a lead, but your own work in the villages has been an inspiration to the rest of us as in almost every other activity of the Conference.

As our President this year, we know, with her unique ability and the magic of her voice, this Conference at Nagpur will be a single success.

Mr. G. R. Billimoria in supporting the proposition said.—

Friends, it is my proud privilege to support the proposition, which has



Lady Parwatibai Chitnavis,
Chairwoman, Reception Committee, Nagpur.

been so ably moved by Begum Hamid Ali and seconded by Mrs. Ray. After the brilliant introduction of Rajkumari that has been given to you already, it would be futile for me to say anything more, but having been connected with the All-India Women's Conference ever since its inception, I have had the privilege of knowing at first hand the part taken by Rajkumari in building up this conference, and I can assure you that it has been no mean part. The scion of royal family, Rajkumari could easily have lived a life of ease and comfort, but she discarded the pomp and superficiality of a rich life, and threw in her lot with her less fortunate sisters. Her humility, her charm, and her alert mind have been the admiration of all those with whom she has come in contact. Mrs Ray has already told you that as the representative of the Conference on the Joint Select Committee, she and her colleagues did very commendable work, but I may repeat here that it was Rajkumari, who established the contact between the Conference and England. She has been able to show to the women of England what the united women of India have been doing to ameliorate the condition of their less fortunate sisters. Rajkumari, in asking you to take the Chair to-day, the Conference is not only honouring you, but it is honouring itself. And I am sure, under your able guidance we shall reach the heights which we have not reached before."

The distinguished President then took the Chair amidst continued cheers and was garlanded by the Secretary of the Reception Committee and the Hon Organising Secretary of the A I W. C. and by the Secretaries of various women's organisations of C. P. & Berar.

WELCOME ADDRESS

By

Lady Parwatibai Chitnavis

Chairwoman, Reception Committee

Mrs Chitnavis, on behalf of Lady Chitnavis, Chairwoman of the Reception Committee, read out her Welcome Address in Hindi which is translated as follows -

Madam President, Sister Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a matter of great pride to me to get an opportunity of welcoming you here in our midst. I am much grateful to the Almighty Who has given me this favour and in that sense of gratitude I extend to you my heartiest welcome. I am conscious of the various shortcomings of the Reception Committee and I know there may have been many acts of omission and commission on our part in according you a royal welcome, for we are fallible. We lack resources and experience. But of one thing we are sure, viz whatever we are offering you by way of welcome comes from our sincere and warm hearts

You will be surprised to see me speaking to you this evening in Hindustani but in reality there is no reason to be surprised Hindustani has been acknowledged on all hands to be the lingua franca of India and it is but meet that all conferences and institutions working for national regeneration must patronise it and duly respect it. To find the innermost soul of the nation and to achieve our fundamental unity, the lingua franca is a powerful medium. The more we realise the importance of this question the better will it be for our conference.

Sisters ! We the women of Nagpur are extremely happy to have you here. It is significant that our Conference is completing the twelfth year of its glorious existence in this historic city. Nagpur, as the capital of the brave Bhonslas has always occupied a prominent place in the history of India. Even in recent times Nagpur has kept up its record of brilliant achievements. It was in this city that in 1920, the Indian National Congress took up the epoch-making step in favour of non-violent non-co-operation and thus created a unique revolution in the politics of this land. In 1923, Nagpur put up a heroic fight for defending the honour of the national flag, and it is in the same city of Nagpur that the Women's Conference is completing its first *tapa* of service and penance. I hope this session of the Conference will be as successful as the session of the Indian National Congress.

We are living through momentous times. This is an age of transition and vast changes are taking place in every sphere of life. The entire humanity seems to be in the grip of a mighty revolution and it appears that we are living in the dawn of a new era. Great political and social problems face us and demand urgent solution. They need to be tackled with courage and confidence. It is obvious that none of these problems can be solved without the co-operation of women. It is our duty to prepare ourselves to offer that necessary co-operation and to render useful service to the cause of humanity. If we have to play our part truly and successfully in the great changes that threaten to come over us, we will have to make our conference more dynamic, progressive and useful. The time for wordy warfare is gone; this is a time for action. We must resolve grimly to leave no stone unturned for the upliftment of our womanhood and our mother-country. The centre of our activity must be shifted from the palaces and mansions to the huts and cottages, from the splendour of the cities to the peace of the villages, from the wealthy and the rich rolling in luxuries to the poor and downtrodden steeped in poverty. I have every hope that this session of the Conference will take right steps in these directions.

Besides these common problems, there are problems peculiar to women, which we have to think over. This is an era of freedom. Every nation and race of the world is fighting for its liberty. The poor, the exploited, the slave all

are striving hard to break their chains Our women have not been left entirely unaffected by this spirit of freedom Indian women are also now making efforts to gain their freedom and equality There are divergent views about the status of women in our society Some opine that women do not deserve to be free, while others assert that Gods live where women are worshipped Some say that home alone is the field of women's activity while others ask as to why women should not come out in the world and achieve economic independence and equality with men

There are many such problems before us and we have to give a correct lead in regard to them While we tackle these problems, we must not forget our glorious ideals of the past, on account of which Indian women have always held their head with pride, the great ideals which have always inspired us to sacrifice, service and self abnegation, which have given us strength to propagate love, valour and chivalry in the world; which have enabled us to give concrete and helpful co-operation in all the movements for the upliftment of humanity Those ideals, that inspiration and that strength are our glorious heritage and if we are true to it we need not worry about our future

Sisters, It is really a happy coincidence that today, when we want to take a definite step towards progress and dynamic activism, we have secured Rajkumari Amrit Kaur to guide our deliberations Words fail to accord a fitting reception to her great person who has discarded the pleasures of a prince's palace and has embraced poverty Under the advice of Mahatma Gandhi, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur is devoting her life to the cause of education, social service and village uplift Service is her mission, sacrifice is the badge of her life self-denial is her vow I am confident that under her wise guidance the conference will be a great success

Sisters, I thank you for having taken the trouble of coming all this distance to attend the Conference I beg to be excused for the inconveniences that may have been caused to you This land of Gondvana in days of old, extended a hearty welcome to God Ramchandra which He accepted with pleasure We too expect you to accept the same as it comes from devoted and sincere hearts

MESSAGES FROM FAR AND NEAR

Mrs Dina Asana, the Hon Organising Secretary for 1937, read out telegrams and * messages received, offering falicitations and wishing success to the Conference from the following:—

Lady Halifax.

H H the Maharani Saheb of Baroda.

H. H. Maharani Sucharu Devi of Mayurbhanj.

Maharani Lalita Kumari of Vizianagaram.

Dr Muthulakshmi Reddi.

Lady Abdul Qadir.

Mrs Rustomji Faridoonji

H H. Maharani Setu Parvati Bai of Travancore

Mrs M. E. Cousins

H. H Princess Durru Shehvar, Princess of Berar

H. H the Rani Saheb of Sangli

The Dowagar Maharani Saheb of Narsinghpur.

Lady Akbar Hydar

Lady Mirza Ismail.

Lady Yeshodabai Joshi.

Mrs. Brijlal' Nehru

Begam Shah Nawaz

Mrs Hansa Mehta

Shrimati Kamala Devi.

Miss Agatha Harrison.

Mrs. Gertrude Ely

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

National Y W. C A.

Ladies' Home Class, Akola.

Mrs Faiz B Tyabji M L A , Bombay

Mrs Lilavati Munshi, M.L A , Do

Rajmata Parvati Kunwari of Ramnagar. M L A . U.P

Mrs Uma Nehru M L A , U.P.

Dr. B Thungmma, M L A., U.P.

Mrs J G Allana, M L A , Sind

Mrs Hasina Murshed, M.L A , Bengal.

Mrs Durgabai Joshi, M L A , C.P. & Berar

Mrs Mona Hensman, M L C , Madras

Mrs Annapurnabai Deshmukh, M L A , Bombay

Miss Sipahimalani, M L A , Sind

Srimati A Lakshmbai, M L A , Orissa

* The text of the messages will be found in the Appendix

Mrs. Dina Asana Hon Organising Secretary, was then asked to read the Annual Report for 1937

ANNUAL REPORT, 1937

OF THE

Hon Organising Secretary

The All-India Women's Conference began its work twelve years ago, with the modest object of helping the cause of Education and accelerating its progress. Some years later, we took up the great work of social service as an additional activity and we have also been working for the recognition of women's rights as citizens. It is in this direction that the current year marks a milestone in the path of women's progress and emancipation in our country. The Government of India Act of 1937 has for the first time in the history of India made it possible for women to be elected to the Legislatures, and already women are holding positions of trust in the Councils. On behalf of the A I W, C, I have the privilege of congratulating them, here, publicly, on their success and also thanking them for their acceptance of our invitation to be present at our Conference. We are particularly happy that the Hon'ble Mrs Vijaya lakshmi Pandit, daughter of one of the most illustrious and selfless patriots of India, is the first Indian woman to hold the rank of a Cabinet Minister, and is with us to-day. During its brief existence, the Conference has many achievements to its credit. It was largely by the efforts of the Conference that the Age of Consent Bill and the Sarda Act were passed. Our Memorandum on Educational Reforms has been of great service to the Educational Authorities. It was by the labours of the Education Fund Association that six lakhs were collected enabling us to establish the first Indian Women's College for Home Science. And it must now be recorded that our Conference has played no mean part in winning for the women of India a place in the public affairs of our country. It is a matter of great satisfaction that as a result of our constitutional fight for improving our political status, India has achieved under the new constitution the premier place among the nations of the world in respect of the number of women legislators, which today stands at about 60. It is a great pleasure to note that many of these women are and have been, Standing Committee Members and have taken an active share in the affairs of our Conference.

During the year under report, constructive work has continued to be done by our office-bearers and Constituencies. Due to the efforts of one of our indefatigable workers, Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur, our worthy President for

the year 1938, who is also a member of the All-India Advisory Board of Education, and thanks also to the generosity of the Educational Commissioner to the Government of India, we have been able to secure and study the draft report made by the Sub-committee of the Board to consider the curriculum of girl's primary schools in India. That draft report was considered in great detail by our Standing Committee at its half-yearly meeting at Phaltan, and our recommendations and suggestions thereto were submitted to the Educational Commissioner who replied that they were very helpful. A copy of these recommendations with a general scheme on primary Education has also been forwarded to the Wardha Education Committee for discussion and consideration at their next sitting. Our special suggestions with regard to primary education deal with important subjects such as adequate staff, nutrition, medical inspection, seasonal and night schools, properly constructed buildings with suitable play grounds, physical instruction hand-work, simple oral examinations, and so on. On each of these points we have made concrete, practical recommendations.

Some of the Constituencies conduct village-school, in which there are more than 100 boys and girls on the roll. Classes for useful as well as artistic home industries are increasing in popularity and our Constituencies are careful to see that only trained teachers are employed, at the same time trying to dispose of the work done by the villagers. Efforts have been made by our local committees to impart free education to adult men and women by means of night schools and classes. Sometimes free clothes are given to orphans and poor students, and simple books on health and hygiene are freely distributed to them.

We firmly believe in one common language for India and to that effect our Common Language Sub-Committee has prepared a useful scheme for the spread of Hindustani. The proceedings at most of our Constituent Conferences have been as far as possible, in the local vernacular, and speeches in English permitted only when the speaker was not able to express herself clearly in the vernacular. We have received a very interesting report from the Baroda State constituency which says that, although the State language is Gujarati, Hindi is a compulsory subject in all the primary schools of the State and no student can get admission to a secondary school unless he has passed the fourth standard with Hindi. All State officials including lady doctors, nurses and women teachers have also compulsorily to pass an examination in Hindi. We are glad to note that this matter is also taken up very seriously by some of the Provincial Governments. We hold that debates, lectures, broadcast talks, Cinema films, etc., would go a long way in helping the spread of Hindustani, but we also suggest that Hindustani literature should be supplied, wherever possible, in school and college libraries and in reading rooms in rural as well as urban areas.

Classes for giving instruction in Hindi, in first aid and home nursing, in needle work and cooking, laundry, toymaking exist almost everywhere. To speak at length in detail about the work done by our Conference for popularising vocational training, for providing adequate play grounds for children and for the establishment of non-communal schools, for medical inspection of school children, visiting and helping rescue homes; and other activities would be out of place here. Suffice it to say that our Constituencies have been working in these directions more enthusiastically than ever.

The **social work** of the Conference during the year under report has been very wide, active and varied. Our Standing Committee, at its half-yearly meeting, prepared a **programme of legislation** which was forwarded to the Prime Ministers of the new Provincial Governments and to the women members of the Legislatures requesting them to include in their programme the following social and educational measures and reforms —

- (1) The reform of the Educational system of the country so as to provide for (a) Compulsory free, elementary, education equally for boys and girls,
 - (b) Medical inspection for all Educational institutions,
 - (c) Vocational and manual training,
 - (d) Hindustani as a compulsory second language with choice of script.
- (2) The amendment of the Child Marriage Restraint (Sarda) Act.
- (3) Compulsory registration of births, deaths, and marriages.
- (4) Maternity Benefit Act for each Province.
- (5) Children's Act for each Province.
- (6) A Social Insurance Act to help the sick, injured, aged and unemployed and to solve the beggar problem.
- (7) The economic, physical and moral reconstruction of villages.
- (8) The abolition of untouchability and the removal of social disabilities
- (9) The reform of inheritance rights for women, of marriage and divorce rights and all legal disabilities of women
- (10) The combatting and abolition of immoral traffic in women and children, both in Devadasi and commercialised vice systems, and the establishment of at least one Government aided Rescue Home in each province
- (11) Prohibition of intoxicants and of harmful drugs
- (12) The reform of jails

In order that social problems may be better understood by the masses, the Conference has decided to **publish brochures** on subjects of vital interest

such as maternity and child welfare, the illegitimate child, evils of child marriage, nutrition and diet, the beggar child, birth control and temperance. After these brochures have been completed and translated in different vernaculars and printed, the local committees will distribute them freely in towns as well as in villages. Some of our Constituencies have opened anti-natal and baby clinics in the villages under the supervision of qualified lady doctors and medicine is supplied free to the poor and needy. In one constituency two mid-wives have been engaged to visit and attend to the health of the villager and to give kindly advice to the expectant mother. In one such clinic, not less than 60 children are attended to, daily. We also advocate the introduction into the legislatures of a Bill for the registration of mid-wives and nurses.

Our work for **untouchability** is also growing. Some of our Constituencies have prevailed upon municipalities to throw open tanks and wells, hitherto reserved for caste Hindus only. One of our Constituencies is running a free school, with 40 Harijan Students. Two Harijan girls are recorded to have passed the middle school examination and are now undergoing a course in technical training. The Harijan night school in Calcutta, started in 1934, has today 83 pupils on its roll including men, women and children.

Swadeshi Exhibitions in connection with our Constituent Conferences are almost an annual feature. These Exhibitions attract thousands of visitors and there is always a large sale of the articles exhibited. We have also prepared a Directory for Swadeshi articles.

You all know the various difficulties experienced by cultivators and manufacturers in **marketing their village products**. To this end, our **Indigenous Industries Sub-Committee** has prepared a Scheme which has been forwarded to the Directors of Industries in various Provinces and States. Our scheme mainly deals with the three chief drawbacks experienced by the farmers and manufacturers, namely, (1) exploitation by middlemen, (2) the question of storage of surplus produce, and (3) the transportation of produce. We are also preparing a scheme for unregulated industries.

We are well aware of the plight of our villagers, who constitute almost 80 per cent of the population of India. I am glad to say that the activities of our Conference are not restricted to cities only. Most of our Constituencies have done real work and shown greater enthusiasm than ever in village welfare and rural reconstruction work. For this purpose, we have started **Village Welfare Sub-committees**. The villagers are given simple talks on sanitation and on ordinary principles of health, sometimes illustrated by magic lantern slides. Classes for home crafts, primary instruction in reading and writing in the vernacular, have also been started and very encouraging response has been received.

The villagers are also advised on the advantage of attending clinics for child-welfare centres. Some of our Constituencies spend part of their funds in giving milk, fruit, cotton and woollen garments to the villagers, and quinine tablets are administered to patients suffering from malaria. Every sort of practical knowledge is sought to be given. It has, however, been felt by some of our Constituencies that those who have to struggle hard for their subsistence are not anxious to acquire any knowledge, even if it is for their mental or physical betterment, unless that knowledge is likely to result in some material gain.

Propaganda against Child Marriage continues to be an important side of our work. In one of our constituencies, two cases were filed against parents and other participants for acting in contravention of the Sarda Act. In one of them the marriage was prevented and Rs. 1000/- taken as security from the parents for trying to marry their girl before she was 14. But it is a matter of great regret that in the other case, in which the girl was proved to be twelve years six months and the man 38 the District Magistrate fined the father Rs 125/- and the priest Rs. 50/- only. An appeal has, however, been filed against this inadequate punishment. Another case is reported in which the fathers of both bride and bride-groom and the officiating priest pleaded guilty and were fined the paltry sum of Rs. 10/- each for arranging the marriage. When the prosecuting counsel pointed out to the Magistrate that the same accused had similarly pleaded guilty in other cases and that the light fine had produced no effect, the Magistrate is reported to have remarked that "he had instructions to deal with such cases very leniently". It is indeed disheartening to note that the present Child Marriage Restraint Act can be flouted at choice by offenders in the knowledge that they will be lightly let off. Surely the Sarda Act was not put on the Statute Book that it may be a dead letter in practice.

Some members of our constituencies are paying regular visits to jails, and are also urging their Provincial Governments to improve the condition of women prisoners and to provide facilities to workers of the A. I. W. C. for organising classes in elementary education and useful handicrafts and cottage industries for them. We have also urged the Bengal and Bihar Governments to provide suitable occupations for women labourers eliminated from the mines and to fix minimum wages for men labourers.

In order to give facilities for exercise and fresh air to children and to our sisters who still observe semi-purda, our Sub-Constituency at Simla has been able to obtain, thanks to the Municipality, a Park with all facilities for amusement and exercises for the exclusive use of women and children. It will be interesting to know that this park was opened by our President Rajkumari Amrit Kaur. The services of a Physical Directress have been engaged to teach them physical exercises and games on scientific lines.

Some of our constituencies have passed resolutions to express publicly the general dissatisfaction felt by women at the altered version and the whittling down of Dr. Deshmukh's Bill for Women's Right to Property as passed by the Central Assembly at Delhi. We are not satisfied that this new version should restrict itself to the rights of widows only, ignoring the rights of daughters and other female heirs. We have also raised our protest against the Arya Samaj Hindu Marriage Validity Act as there is no clause in it against bigamy, and also as the Indian Succession Act does not apply to people marrying under the Act.

The Mysore Government is to be congratulated for having placed on its Legislature an Act for the suppression of Immoral Traffic in women and children and for passing the Maternity Benefit Act by which women employed in factories are given leave on full pay for four weeks before and four weeks after confinement. We hope that other Indian States and Provincial Governments will follow the notable example set by Mysore. We are glad to record that after the lead given by the State of Travancore on Temple Entry, some other Indian States during the last year have followed suit. We wish all Provincial Governments would take up this matter as soon as possible.

We are glad to note that Mrs. S. C. Mukerjee, the Chairwoman of our Standing Committee for 1936, was appointed by the Government of India as their delegate to the Conference of the Central Authorities of the League of Nations in Eastern Countries for combatting traffic in women and children. It met at Bandoeng, Java, in February 1937, and was the first effort on the part of the League of Nations to tackle this problem in the East after 16 years of fighting the same in Europe and America. Experience of her recent visit will prove very useful to our Sub-Committee on this subject. It is very gratifying to note that Mrs. S. C. Mukerji was elected Vice President of that Conference.

Our Franchise Sub-Committee, of which Rani Lakshuibai Rajwade is Convener, deserves special mention for preparing excellent report on the history of the women Suffrage Movement and on the Citizenship and Political Rights of women in extra-European countries. These reports have been published and will be obtainable from our office.

Begum Hamid Ali represented the A. I. W. C. at the International world Peace Conference at Czechoslovakia in July 1937 and was treated as a distinguished visitor from India and given all the privileges of a delegate. She read a paper on "India, its government, its present state and future aspirations". She laid particular stress on India's non-violent policy, and the message of peace sent by the the A. I. W. C. and read out by her was very much appreciated. She was also present at the League of Nations Assembly meeting at Geneva in September last, and her visit to Egypt, Syria, Turkey, Austria, Germany,

Czechoslovakia and other countries has strengthened the bond of friendship between India and those countries

As reported last year, we feel increasingly the need of a **Central Office** with a paid Secretary. But our main difficulty in putting our scheme into force is lack of funds. In view of the hard and selfless work done by the A. I. W. C. for the uplift of women and children in India, we earnestly hope that the people of British India and the States will respond generously to our appeal for funds.

We cannot adequately thank the **Liaison Group in England** for their interest, sympathy and help in our work. We are particularly glad to welcome in our midst **Mrs Grace Lankester**, our **Liaison Officer in England**, and we thank her very much for coming all the way from England to take part in our deliberations. The appointment of a **Liaison Officer in England** was made four years ago, and this is the first occasion when the officer herself has been able to come. Mrs Lankester has spent a good deal of her time and energy in giving publicity to our interest abroad and we are much indebted to her for the work she has been doing for our organisation. The **Quarterly Bulletin** prepared by the **Liaison Group** deserves special mention. We hope Mrs Lankester will return to England with happy memories of this session and will give further impetus to the work of spreading outside India a knowledge of the activities of the A. I. W. C.

In March last, **Mr Ekstrand**, Director of the **Opium Traffic and Social Questions Section** of the **League of Nations**, visited India. Many of our Constituencies, in the cities he visited took advantage of the opportunity and invited him to address them. He laid particular stress on the work to be done for children suffering from physical and mental congenital defects, and we are glad to report that some of Constituencies have started work in these directions. We are further glad to report that in June 1937 the Council of the **League of Nations** appointed the A. I. W. C. to be a **Correspondent Member of its Advisory Committee on Social Questions**. We regret to note that the Government of India did not accede to our request to send a woman representative to the Assembly meeting of the **League of Nations** at Geneva in September last, when the important question of the Status and position of women, under the law and in practice, in the different countries of the world, was considered for the first time.

We are also increasing our contact with other countries of the world. The A. I. W. C. has received an invitation to send delegates to the Conference at **British Guiana** on the occasion of the Centenary Celebration of the Indian Emigration there in May 1938. Though we regret we were not able to send our representative to the **Pan-Pacific Women's Conference** held at **Vancouver**,

Canada, in July 1937, a paper on "India, its women and the A. I. W. C.", was read by Dr. Georgina Sweet and was very well received by the delegates at the Conference.

It is interesting and gratifying to find that we have in all 38 Constituencies and over 100 Sub-Constituencies. This year we are very glad to add one more Constituency to our list, namely, the enlightened State of Phaltan

New Sub-constituencies have also been formed at Bhusawal and Kirloskarwadi for Maharashtra; at Dharwar, Bijapur and Belgaum for the Karnatak;—at Patan, Mehsana, Visnagar, Navasan and Amreli for Baroda; at Surat, Broach and Rajpipla for Gujarat. Propaganda has also been carried on in Kathiawar at Bhavnagar, Junagad and Rajkot;—and A. I. W. C. centres will most likely be started there during the next year

Ladies and gentlemen, I have perforce to leave out from this report a number of other items for fear of taking up your valuable time by making this report unduly long. May I, in conclusion, say a few words for the benefit of those critics of ours who allege that women's conferences are mere tea-parties and social gatherings. It will be seen by perusing our reports of previous years and the present one that this organisation is an association of earnest women, who, inspired by high ideals, are doing their little bit to ameliorate the condition of their less fortunate sisters. We admit that we are still young and that very much yet remains to be done. The road before us is long and weary, yet we shall try to reach the light we dimly see in the distance. We, women of India, have embarked upon our undertaking with enthusiasm, and whatever the obstacles in our way, we shall not look back, but continue to march forward with patience, endurance and hope until the night of ignorance and superstition is over and we see the morning break.

Dina Asana

Hon Organising Secretary

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

of

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur

(The President delivered the earlier portions of her address in Hindustani, and later on in English)

Sister Co-workers

It is not without diffidence that I stand before you here to-day for the task of a President of an Organisation is a very responsible one and I am not without doubt as to my ability to shoulder the burden efficiently. Your confidence in me, however, the fact that Nagpur, where we are met this year, wanted me, and my own love for the Conference with whose work I have been so intimately associated for the past nine years, have constrained me to accept this office. And in returning thanks to you for the affection you have shown and the honour you have done me, I pray that God will help both you and me to do that which He would have us do in order to make this Association a real power for good in the land.

My first and pleasant duty is to extend a most hearty welcome to all our visitors whether from abroad or other parts of India. It is indeed a great personal joy to me to have in our midst Mrs Lankester so well known to all of us as our liaison officer in England with British Women's Organisations. I had the privilege of working with her for two years and I know with what single-eyed devotion she has served the best interests of our Conference. No trouble has been too great whenever her services have been requisitioned and the News Bulletin which she has published in England every month has always placed the Indian point of view with clarity and strength before the English public. On behalf of all of us I tender to her our gratitude for her labour of love on our behalf over a period of four years.

On a bed of sickness in Europe, in 1927, I rejoiced when I read of the formation of the Conference and was present in spirit with the small gathering that met in Poona that year. Much water has flowed under the bridges since then and year by year our annual gatherings have brought new visions before us and have spurred us on to greater activities for the future. The fact that sometimes we have not had enough money to carry on our work, even for the

current year, has never deterred us for we have had faith in the ideals for the fulfilment of which the Conference came into being. The personal contacts made at these Sessions, the lasting friendships formed, the full and free discussions on problems, the solution of which form the object of our desires, the cosmopolitan nature of our gatherings, the knowledge acquired of varying conditions in different parts of the country, the obliteration of all distinctions of race, province, class, caste and creed, the friendly spirit that pervades throughout in spite of heated arguments, all these have been for each one of us, I know, a rich experience and a treasure that cannot be expressed in words, but which have drawn us close and will continue to bind us together for all time in common service of our motherland.

I do not propose to dwell at any length to-day on the little that we may claim to have achieved during the eleven years of our existence. I feel it is on the vast field of work which awaits us that we must try to concentrate.

It was only natural that the first few years of the life of a new Association should be spent on meetings and discussions for organising and acquiring knowledge and on propaganda for the purpose of focussing general attention on its special problems relating to women and children. It was equally natural that the founders and promoters of an Association formed mainly for the purpose of furthering education and social reform should have been drawn from the intelligentsia and the leisured and moneyed classes of Indian women. We have had and still have to battle against apathy and ignorance, against age-long prejudices and customs and against our own inexperience of methods of organisation. That we have been able to carry on our establishment, that we have succeeded in doing a fair amount of propaganda, that we have to-day 148 Branches—big or small—covering all Provinces and many Indian States, that we still have the desire to grow, that our workers have all been voluntary and that many of them today possess detailed knowledge of questions relating to the needs of women and children, that the meetings of our Branches are open to all women, that communal divisions have not marred our outlook, that in the matter of women's place in the new constitution we were able to present a united front against the communal award, against separate electorates and the reservation of seats on a communal basis, against indirect election and a limited franchise based mostly on property rights and against the India Act as a whole—all these factors, I am sure, even our critics will admit are a proof that our existence has been worth while. Many sisters have told me that if it had not been for a Conference Branch in their locality they might not, perhaps, have been roused to a sense of their responsibility or realised that it was their duty to serve. I know, too, that for many of our members work under the aegis of one of our Branches has provided the only outlet for their zeal for service. In any event, the common bond

of womanhood and the fact that no other motives except the regaining for women their lost and rightful position and thereby serving our country better have actuated our members are, in my humble opinion sufficient reasons for our existence. No one who glances at the resolutions that have been passed with one voice during the last eleven years, not only at our Annual Sessions but at our Branch meetings, can but be struck with the wide range of interests which they cover and acknowledge that the matter, tone and spirit of them are in line with all that the most ardent nationalist would desire. A glance at the Annual Report as well as at the more detailed reports of work in the Branches will again show that many members are honestly trying in their respective localities to implement those resolutions, often single handed.

But, sisters, such meagre service as we have been permitted to render can only redound to our credit if it humbles us and makes us see ourselves in a true perspective and spurs us on to greater action. In that way alone lies progress. While no one will dispute the fact that the ideals for which the Conference was formed are altogether worthy, there has been for some time and still exists definite criticism of our methods of work and of the cramped nature of our interests and activities. The mere fact that we do evoke criticism is surely a very healthy sign. We may not resent it, rather should we take heart from it and determine to reform where reform is needed and humbly accept the criticism where it is merited. In asking you, therefore, to turn the search-light inwards I shall endeavour this afternoon to share my thoughts with you as to what should be the future policy of our Association

Eleven years is as the twinkling of an eye in the life of a nation and yet those of us who can travel back in mind to eleven years ago must realise that in this short period vast changes have taken place in the spirit that pervades this great land. There is an awakening, an unrest and an urge for change which no one can fail to notice. The new Constitution has come into being and women have not only taken advantage of the extended franchise but their vote has undoubtedly helped to return to power those popular governments which are today administering two-thirds of British India under the grievous limitations with which the new Act bristles. Not only have women filled all the seats that were reserved for them constitutionally, but they have successfully contested some general seats. They are also occupying positions of trust and responsibility in the new Provincial Governments for which we offer them our congratulations and where we are sure they will vindicate the honour of women by their capacity for efficient service. This in itself is something that eleven years ago would have filled every one with wonder and doubt. And here I would be failing in my duty if I did not on behalf of us all declare our sense of gratitude to the Congress party for their belief expressed many years ago in the absolute equality of the sexes and their practical recognition of this principle the moment they have had the opportunity of doing so.

Changing conditions inevitably bring a new outlook, new ideas, new desires and new opportunities and unless these ideas are studied and accepted or rejected according to their worth and unless occasion is taken by the hand an Association, even as an individual, is left behind in the onward march of progress and outlives its utility. In the light of events, therefore, there comes a definite need for us today to review our position and so adjust ourselves that we may be enabled to contribute in full measure to the new life that is pulsating throughout the country.

I am sure no member will disagree with me when I confess on our behalf that we have not been able so far to make those intimate contacts with the women of India for whom we have pledged ourselves to work. The main reason for this is that we live in towns while the real India lives in villages. Again, with a few exceptions, our lives are such as to make excessive demands on our time for social activity among our own, leisured class. There is, too, a blind imitation of Western modes of life and conduct which have not only made our standard of living expensive but have definitely constituted a wide gulf between us and the vast majority of our sex. Therefore, while our Constitution and methods of election are democratic enough on paper, our working Committee is not the representative body it should be. The member from each constituency, generally speaking, represents her own views or the views of her Committee and not the views of the thousands of women who live in her area. This state of affairs must undergo a radical change if we are to be an all-India body not merely in name but in deed. Every Branch must have frequent gatherings of women drawn from the poorer classes, their homes must be visited, their wants studied, they and their children must be educated not in the three Rs only, but in what is much more important, in right ways of living, thinking and dealing with their neighbours and the attention of those in authority must be drawn to the miserable conditions in which most of them live. As our Branches are all in urban areas this is by no means an impossible task if we make up our minds to use our leisure in this noble way. It is high time that we began in real earnest to champion the woman's cause not only by passing resolutions but by becoming their friends and doing something constructive to lighten their darkness and relieve the heavy burden they carry. And what about the villages? While we have, with our lips, welcomed the formation of the All India Village Industries Association and promised to work for the fulfilment of its ideals we have not so far—again with a few exceptions—really taken up this necessary work with any degree of zest. Believe me when I tell you that if our urban Committees would only adopt one Village each in their areas and carry on sustained work there, we should by this means alone prove the worth of our existence. Further, if all of us would pledge ourselves to buy handmade articles for our use, whenever and wherever possible, we should be

giving an impetus to the development of cottage industries and to the improvement in the quality and nature of these articles in a way which no amount of State patronage can do. For after of all, to make our homes and our surroundings beautiful, to create a demand for attractive articles of daily use, in short, to set and maintain standards of true art and beauty, are woman's special prerogative. We are pledged, as an Association, to promote indigenous industries. I know that many of us are honestly restricting our purchases to Swadeshi but much remains to be done and the pledge, to be really effective, has to be translated into action by every one of us. Here I am impelled, with all the emphasis at my command, to make a special appeal for "Khadi". I ask you to study the ethics of hand spun and hand-woven cloth. I do not ask you to compare its worth in terms of price or quality with machine made materials, whether home or foreign. I ask you to look upon it with the eyes of understanding hearts. Pandit Jawaharlal has called it the livery of Indian political freedom. I would like women, at any rate, to believe in it also as the symbol of our purity in as much as its use not only serves our starving millions, not only stands for the cessation of the exploitation of the weak by the strong but should also help to make its wearers poor in spirit. I shall be happy indeed if every Branch will make it a *'sine qua non'* of its existence to run a Swadeshi Stores at its head quarters and to give a prominent place in all such to Khadi, which, as Gandhiji has so beautifully expressed it, is the sun in our solar system round which all the lesser stars revolve.

We are fortunate that today in seven out of eleven provinces the Governments are doing their utmost to implement the ideals which we have pressed for all along. Gandhiji when recently enumerating the items which should engage the attention of the Ministries referred to the following - "Communal co-operation and friendship, the willing restraint of the addicts to the drink and opium habits, the eradication of untouchability, the social enfranchisement of women, the progressive amelioration of superstition of proved harmfulness through adult mass education, a complete overhauling of the system of higher education so as to answer the wants of the millions instead of the few middle class people, a radical change in the legal machinery so as to make justice pure and inexpensive, conversion of jails into reformatories in which detention would be not a course of punishment but a complete course of the education of those miscalled convicts but who are in fact temporarily deranged." "This", he adds, "is not conceived as a terribly long plan of action. Every one of the items suggested by me can be put into motion today, without let or hindrance, if we have the will." Here indeed has opened out to women, in particular, a vast field of work in which we cannot put in enough labourers. Prohibition for example, is definitely woman's work for the curse of drink lies more heavily on them than on the drink addicts themselves. Will the Conference dedicate its resources by helping these Governments in whichever way they require us to help? I hope our Branches in these Provinces will get in touch with the Ministers in charge and offer their

whole hearted and loyal service in the matter of this reform. I trust also that our Branches in the less fortunate Provinces and in the States will stir up an agitation so that those Governments too may come into line and bring in the necessary legislation. We must not however, forget that while laws are an indispensable aid for the eradication of a particular evil, the vital thing is to carry conviction to the addicts of alcohol and drugs. I am quite sure that in the matter of temperance propaganda women must take the lead and the moral pressure through pure love that we can bring to bear both individually and collectively on the victims will have a more lasting and a better effect than anything else. In the matter of communal unity also it is we women who must bring light where all seems dark at the moment.

We have long been asking for the necessary legislation for the removal of our legal disabilities. I have no doubt in my mind that the popular Governments in the seven Provinces will not let our voice remain a cry in the wilderness any longer. But we must place before them our concrete proposals and I am glad to learn that some of our members have taken this matter in hand. In this connection I would like to throw out a suggestion which I hope will receive your favourable consideration. Instead of attempting to reform existing laws would it not be feasible to try to draw up an Act embodying equitable laws of marriage, inheritance, property etc. by which it would be optional to members of any community to be governed? In this way we might overcome opposition on religious grounds to any changes in the present order and at the same time move towards an ideal which if successful in its working is certain to be universally accepted and become one means of our unification.

In the realm of educational reform we have urged ever since our inception that there should be free and compulsory primary education, that girls' education has languished for want of teachers apart from the lack of funds which militates against the spread of education in general and that the system itself has been wrong and has not proceeded on lines in keeping with our genius or our traditions. Now that this matter is receiving the earnest attention of the popular Governments we should assimilate the new ideals and ideas that are being put forward and help all we can to mould education along suitable lines. Where voluntary teachers are needed our members should readily offer their services. I should like to see all young women of the leisured classes ready to devote at least two or three years of their lives after their education is completed—before they enter into married life—to voluntary teaching of poor children or adults in their area. Inasmuch as we claim that the Lady Irwin College is our creation I should like to appeal to the members of the Conference to make this an institution worthy of rendering real service to India. It is good to feel that 1938 will see this College entering into its new buildings. I trust that it will also usher in the dawn of a new era for its students. This College was founded with the object of training

girls in Domestic Science and kindred subjects the knowledge of which they could and would, in their turn, impart to village girls Its motto means that true knowledge is service With the new outlook on education that has now come in, I sincerely hope that we shall add forthwith to our curriculum some vocational training also in order that our students may be fitted to contribute to the much needed progress in this direction I would like to suggest that dairying be taken up as one of the additional subjects and that Hindustani in either the Devanagari or Persian script be made compulsory for those girls who do not already know it I would also love to see within our precincts an experimental school of village and Harijan children I feel too that strict rules should be enforced as to the simple life-in food and clothing-that our students should lead while in the College I hope every student obtaining a diploma from here will give at least three years of service in the teaching profession I know that we are badly off for funds but if we fulfil a much felt want I am sure we shall not starve for lack of money Members of this Conference must take a more active and creative interest in the Lady Irwin College if it is to be an institution worthy of our ideals

There is no need for me to dwell on the details of such social service as is within the reach or power of each one of us to render If we concentrate on working for the removal of untouchability, for prohibition, Swadeshi and Khadi, for communal unity, for Hindustani, for village industries, for hygiene and sanitation in both town and country we shall certainly be serving our land well Some of us have been trying to do all this Many more must join, for an enormous army of workers is needed It was not the country-wide agitation nor the window smashing and acts of incendiarism nor even hunger striking in prison that brought unfettered franchise to the women of England It was their efficient and willing shouldering of the responsibilities that fell on them during the Great War that gave them in a moment, as it were, what they had struggled for for years Therefore, I am confident that if we women in India develop that strength which is ours but which we have lost through our own fault, if we find ourselves in self-less service we shall also find the shackles that bind us falling off us of their own accord

But there is something more which we must do if we are to justify our existence There is no gainsaying the fact that to-day the struggle for freedom occupies the centre of the Indian stage It is only natural that this should be so for how can India come into her own unless she is freed from the chains of an alien rule? Life is an indivisible whole and we cannot separate social and educational reform from Political and economic reform any more than we can separate women from men All progress and all reform are indissolubly linked together and I feel that we shall be wholly untrue to Indian womanhood if we deny to our selves the right to express our opinion on the burning questions of the day. I do not want this Conference to become a political organisation as such nor would I

advise our belonging to any particular political party. We must remain strictly non-party and draw our members from every class and every school of thought and from all over India. But I have no shadow of doubt that we should be in a position either to criticise or to lend our moral and active support to all such activities as, in our opinion, either harm or benefit the country.

With what voice can we raise a protest against the Italian conquest of Abyssinia or Japanese ruthless aggression in China if we cannot condemn the bombing of villages on the North West Frontier or speak out against imperialistic designs wheresoever they be? How can we deplore the civil war in Spain if we may not condemn those who stir up communal strife in our own country? How can we ask to be freed from the shackles of slavery ourselves, when we do not lend a helping hand to our nation in its struggle for freedom? Can our women's hearts be deaf to the trials of Indians overseas? Can we fail to sympathise with the flower of India's youth that has been exiled from home and has languished in prison for years? May we not rejoice at the releases that have recently taken place and plead for the setting free of all political prisoners who disown terrorism? Can we be blind to the emaciation through the ravages of hunger and disease of our millions and not declare openly that the root cause of these ills must go? Can we be refused money for all nation building activities and not protest against the inordinate expenditure on the military budget? Can we see imperialism rampant in the world today and dragging one nation after another into war, and not refuse absolutely to be dragged into war for imperialist purposes ourselves? Lastly can we see our own country suffering on every hand from lack of freedom, and not refuse a type of federal constitution imposed on us against our own will and consent, which can only bind our fetters tighter?

I have been told that if we attempt to widen our horizon of interests and activities we shall lose several of our members and all our State Branches. I cannot believe that such a psychology of fear can haunt us, if we look at things in their true perspective and are honest with ourselves. Can we Indian women, born and nurtured in the spirit of devotion and self-sacrifice, inheritors of the ancient traditions of the incomparable courage of our heroines, the story of whose lives has added lustre to the history of the world, allow ourselves to become the victims of fear? Is any organisation worth anything that cannot express hostility to existing wrongs—most of all a woman's organisation? Are our State Branches never going to stand up for the rights of State subjects? Are they not blood of our blood and bone of our bone? Is there not suffering and injustice in States just as much as anywhere else? May we women not join in exposing all such wherever they be and in trying to get wrongs redressed? Is any Indian different in feeling whether he lives in what is known as British or Indian India? These objections seem to me to come from persons who have not, perhaps, given enough thought to the question.

If this Conference is to be a living organisation, if it is to embrace all India in reality, it cannot today afford to confine itself within narrow walls. While I believe that all social and educational and economic reform is complementary to the larger struggle for freedom the latter cannot be ignored by us. And unless we change our outlook we shall fail to fulfil what I have considered to be our mission in life, namely to stress the moral and spiritual values in every department of our existence. I fervently appeal to the delegates assembled here today to take courage in both hands and to insist that our constitution be so changed as to allow us to express our opinion on and take part in any activity which we feel is for the good of the country as a whole and keeps itself within constitutional lines. No one need fear that this will harm her or her Branch. If we have faith we shall realise that we shall, in the long run, be doing ourselves and our cause infinite good.

I ask you also to change the name of this Association to an Indian name.

I would suggest too that in order to create an interest in service among young girls we should form young peoples' leagues at every head quarters and ask them to send their representatives as delegates to our annual all-India Sessions.

I feel that travelling and organising Secretaries are now essential for every Province. I should like to take this opportunity of welcoming Shanta Bhalerao as our first whole-time worker. She has done useful work already and we want many more like her who have dedicated their lives to service.

The time has come for us also to enrol members on the payment of a small sum annually so that every woman may feel she is one who can be appealed to in the hour of need.

In this way only will the Conference—today representative of the intelligentsia—become representative of women in every walk of life. I have no doubts about money coming in if our work is undertaken in earnest and if we can produce the necessary number of workers.

Finally I do beg of you in all sincerity to consider the advisability—nay, the absolute necessity—of adopting non-violence as our creed for the attainment of all our ideals. We live in a world overshadowed by the clouds of war. We cannot today—however important and immediate our own needs are and however imperative is our duty to concentrate on them—afford to ignore world conditions. The doctrine that Might is Right has brought mankind to the terrible state in which we see it today. Selfishness, exploitation, oppression, imperialism and cruelty have been the direct result of this doctrine. We women have allowed ourselves to be exploited no less than the weaker nations of the earth because we have joined hands with man by acquiescing in the theory of brute force as the final arbiter of our destinies. If we are to raise ourselves to our rightful position and thereby

raise humanity we must arm ourselves with the weapons of love before which all force must ultimately bend

I think we may claim that ours is the only country where this doctrine can today take root. Indeed, thanks to an Almighty Providence that has given us this great son of India to point to us the right way, non-violence has already taken root. We shall fail in our mission in life if we do not tend this plant and nourish it so that it may spread its sheltering branches over us and help us to live unharmed by the fierce sun of hatred that is scorching the world today. I know the path of Ahimsa is the path of suffering, but I know also that it is the straight and narrow road which alone leads to life. No home is complete without a woman's love, as women we cannot imagine a life without love. Can the world, then live on violence? Surely not. Should not non-violence, therefore, be the badge of our sex? Let us begin 1938 with this creed not merely on our lips but firmly embedded in our hearts. All fears will then vanish, all doubts will be cleared away and, with God's grace we shall be able in all faith to look forward to the fulfilment of our most cherished dreams. May the Giver of all Good grant us the strength to be true to our high calling.

"Give me the supreme courage of love, this is my prayer, the courage to speak, to do, to suffer at Thy will, to leave all or be left alone.

Give me the supreme faith of love, this is my prayer, the faith of the life in death, of the victory in defeat, of the power hidden in the frailness of beauty, of the dignity of pain that accepts hurt but disdains to return it."

December, 1937

Amrit Kaur.

The Hon'ble Dr N. B. Khare, Prime Minister of the Central Provinces and Berar, addressed the gathering as follows --

I am glad to have the opportunity of addressing this august gathering of the All-India Women's Conference. I was greatly interested to read the account of the work done by this Conference and was very much pleased that our sisters have made rapid strides through this conference, and that they have begun to think for themselves and devise plans and means to ameliorate their condition and have also begun to think over the problems which affect both men and women of India. I may at once say that men and women do not belong to different species but they are from one and the same species of genus and homo. Therefore all the problems which affect women affect them commonly and they demand common solution from the common effort of both men and women of India, or any part of the world for the matter of that. All these problems which affect men and women must be faced together and a solution evolved. It is also proper that women should meet together because their

problems are certainly a little different. If men have one thralldom, the women have to meet thralldom-Square, the domestic thralldom from their men-folk and the extraneous thralldom arising out of the political situation; I am sure a time will come when for their own upliftment, for their own benefit, they will have to face those problems which arise out of our own political situation. For some time they may try to hide their faces like an ostrich but a time will surely come when they will have to face those problems boldly. From that point of view I congratulate the speech of the hon'ble the President because I am in entire agreement with what she said in her speech which I heard very carefully that no social development, no educational development, no economic development can take place singly or in compartments. There is no liberty in compartments. It will not be liberty at all. If you want freedom, freedom from the thralldom-domestic or otherwise-you will have to get that freedom in all walks of life. Unless you do that, you can not get that particular freedom which you want. Just as the British Suffragettes got their rights, not by their head-breaking or window-smashing, but by constant agitation, so also our Indian sisters who have got small rights got them because they proved to the world that they are equal to men if not better.

The Indian National Congress has certainly removed all sex barriers in all the public activities in the Karachi Resolution and to which we are all pledged and there is no doubt that we shall always strive to keep that end in view and to act accordingly. I do not want to enter into detailed problems which you are competent enough to solve yourselves. The Congress Governments will surely always bear in mind this view and try their little mite to help in this matter. I can give you that assurance.

The Hon'ble Dr. N. B. Khare then spoke a few words in Marathi.

Sheth Jamnalal Bajaj, who was specially sent with a message from Mahatma Gandhi, gave an inspiring address in Hindi.

Sir Moropant V Joshi spoke as follows:-

I have been asked by your Secretary to address this Conference on matters which I deem essential to the women's cause for which the Conference stands. Although bringing up four daughters so as to make them useful citizens, may be a source of satisfaction to me, I have attuned myself to a mental attitude where the past is not a matter of laudation but only a prelude to present and further promotion of women's emancipation. I believe your Conference also takes the same view and it is therefore that I press on your attention a few points which I consider essential to promote the cause you have at heart.

The first point is about the curriculum for girls students in the primary, secondary and collegiate stages. You have amongst you many ladies who have received education and who are bringing up their daughters and daughters-in-law on the same model as their own. One hears criticism that women's education should be based on ideals which recognise women's special functions and aptitudes in the environment in which a vast majority of women will have to pass life during the next 30 years. It thus becomes necessary for the Conference to appoint a Committee of women experts to lay down the ideals on which women's education should be based and the curricula to accomplish those ideals. Now with Congress Government in power, it is easy to get a recognition by schools and Universities for the curricula that may thus be put forth. You can also in this connection pronounce your views on co-education of boys and girls.

Another point which has given rise to a good deal of acrimonious argument is the question of the need for limitation of families. While there are women who look upon motherhood as a privilege, an enforced motherhood is a sacrifice. It is for you to give a considered opinion on this subject.

One more thing and I shall have done. Although the Conference has done good work so far, you can never rest on your oars. Admittedly your propaganda work suffers for want of funds and want of devoted workers. A very large number of India's womanhood has yet to realise that they have to push on for attainment of more rights so that subject to limitations of nature, women will be on a par with men. To rouse women from this apathy and indifference repeated realisation of their rights has to be brought home to women inside and outside the purdah. This can only be achieved by devoted women workers shouldering this labour of love for uplift of their sex. Emancipation of women has different phases and in course of time all these will have to be worked up. The more gross the ignorance of women, the greater will be the effort required and unless the Conference devises means to intensify propaganda, the women's cause will not materially advance at a rapid rate. I trust the Conference realises this.

The Hon'ble Mrs. Vijayalaxmi Pandit was greeted with loud cheers when she rose to address the gathering. She said -

Friends,—It gives me great pleasure to be with you to-day. Although I have been a member of the All-India Women's Conference since its inception, I have never before had the privilege of taking part in its annual gathering. My life during these last few years has been spent mainly in the political field, and this Conference has always endeavoured to keep away from politics. It has therefore been difficult for me to take an active part in your deliberations, but

I have been one with you in spirit, and the Conference has gained in strength. I have rejoiced at its achievements.

I come to you to-day full of a selfish desire. As the only woman Minister in this country, a heavy burden has been placed upon me—one that I can bear only if you will share it. When this work was allotted to me my heart was full of doubt and fear, but I accepted office realizing that it was not me, the individual, who was being thus honoured but that I had been chosen to represent the women of my country and in appointing me to a position so far closed to women, the Indian National Congress, of which I am an humble follower, was demonstrating to the world the equality of man and woman in the new India which is in the making to-day. I consider it a privilege to have been thus chosen to represent my sex. It is also a great responsibility, and so I am specially grateful to you for your cordial invitation to come amongst you, and I take this opportunity of asking you for your support and co-operation and even for your affection, without which it will not be possible for me to work with credit to my sex and to the country whose honour we hold dear. Realizing my own unworthiness I have also realized the tremendous strength you can give me, and it is because I feel confident of your help that I can afford to be courageous and smile at the difficulties which lie in my path.

The world to-day is more closely linked than ever before. Ours is an age of bewilderment, economic changes, confusion of thought, new and unknown forces conspire against the individual, and more especially against woman, who faces the world as an individual for the first time. And what of the Indian woman in this age of confusion? The urge to progress has come to her also, but her pace is necessarily slow. She is fighting to put an end to centuries of tyranny. She has to oppose not only hard and unjust laws, but also to work out against traditions and superstition, and that is no easy task. But it is not for me to describe woman's progress in this country. It is wellknown to the delegates assembled here, and this Conference has in its short life played an important part in hastening this progress. Many of our members are women of ability, of whom any country might be proud and their work for the cause of women has received appreciation and recognition. We have as our President this year one, who is the much loved and valued friend of many of us. I can think of no one better fitted to take up this responsibility. Her silent service in many spheres has been justly recognised by this Conference. I know she will lead us with ability and understanding. She will, I feel, not misunderstand me if I venture to suggest that the scope of this Conference should be widened. Changing circumstances demand a wider field of work. Just as it is difficult to avoid politics in a country that fights for its freedom, so it becomes increasingly difficult to confine an organization to any one class without impairing its usefulness. With wider contacts this conference is sure to achieve better results.

It has distressed me that the All-India Women's Conference has always kept so rigidly aloof from the political life of the country. It seems to me that in a country like ours and with conditions as they are, we cannot achieve what we have set out to do by merely passing resolutions, and so long as the fundamentals of life remain the same, so long as India is not a free country, no progress in the real sense is possible, and I venture to suggest in all humility that this Conference should also consider this point of view.

Our difficulties are increased by the tragic aspect of the world situation, and the question of woman's rights is getting merged in the larger and more important one of the rights of humanity. This makes it immediately necessary for women of every nation to unite and strengthen the causes of democracy and peace of which the woman's cause is a part. The terrible sufferings inflicted in Africa, Europe and China must inspire all women to further effort. The struggle for equal rights may continue, but the urgent need is for us to restore to the world its balance and give back to men a true sense of values. The terrible shadow of war must not be allowed to increase. All through the ages, the East, and specially India, has given a message of peace and hope to a world grown weary with strife and hatred. Let us remember it is still the proud privilege of the women of India to uphold all those traditions which have made her great in the past. Let us work for equality and freedom for our sex by all means, but let us not forget the more important issue of equality and freedom for humanity, and by joining our forces to those who work towards this, let us help to make the world beautiful to live in. Only then shall we justify our great inheritance and past glory

Sir Hari Singh Gour addressing the gathering, spoke as follows:—

I have listened with the utmost interest to the learned and illuminating address delivered by the Lady President Rajkumari Amrit Kaur. References have been made to her great services in England for the women of India, when she went as one of the three representatives of your sex before the Joint Parliamentary Committee. I happened to be an eye-witness of the great work that she did in championing the cause of the women of India and I can assure you that had it not been for Rajkumari Amrit Kaur and Mrs. Hamid Ali and her colleague, the position of the women in India under the new Constitution of 1935 would have been far worse than what you find it to-day.

The All-India Women's Conference has attained the age of 12 years, and a very large number of resolutions and suggestions have been annually passed to promote the interests of the Women's Conference. Taking a lesson from the past of our great organization, the Indian National Congress, and from the progress made in other countries throughout the world, I wish the Women's Conference in India would settle down to adopt a Five Year plan. If the

Women's Conference were to do so, it will synchronise with the Congress government for the next five years and the two, working in parallel zones, the conference might achieve real success in matters upon which the women of India feel keenly and strongly. It will also show to what extent the Congress Governments in the 7 out of the 11 provinces are able to help forward the women's movement in this country, so that when on the lapse of 5 years women can examine their five years' programme and the Congress their five years' work there will be an important and common ground between the women of India and the legislators of this country.

In the address of the President and in the eloquent speeches of the previous speakers, I feel that I shall perhaps not be doing my duty if I merely sat down by giving expression to a few courteous phrases in a few conventional platitudes. I desire as a practical man, as one who would like to see the women's cause advanced—not advanced by steps but by leaps and bounds, I should like the women of this country to settle down to a concrete plan of progress on the lines I have indicated. Take, for example, the great necessity for legal and social reform to remove the disabilities from which the women of India have been suffering for thousands of years. Those of you who practise the profession of law will bear me out, that one of the most difficult subjects, which the smritis have composed is the subject of *stridhanam*, that even Jimut Vahan in his *Dayabag* had to confess that he was now dealing with that extremely obscure and difficult problem of women's property. That obscurity still haunts that question, and I should like the Women's Organization, not only to pass a resolution but to insist upon the 7 provinces out of the 11 provinces to give their strength and weight for the purpose of clarifying that most monstrous piece of our law, how much simple it would be if women who own their property are declared by law to be the owners of that property; is that not a plain and simple proposition? If you ask a man unsophisticated in the law of our shastras, he will say that I am asking him a silly and foolish question, because a man or a woman, who owns the property, must necessarily be the owner of that property. But do you know under our shastric law the owner of the property is the husband and not the wife, and what I have been struggling is to ask that this elementary truth about the recognition of the women's right and property should legislatively be sanctioned. I quite believe that our Congress friends are extremely sincere and anxious to elevate the condition of women in this country, but believe me the condition of women in this country will not be elevated unless they come into their own and are able to hold the property that belongs to them and to dispose of it themselves as every owner is entitled to do so.

That would be the fundamental move in the direction of the emancipation of women in India and the time is now ripe, the time is over-due that the

It has distressed me that the All-India Women's Conference has always kept so rigidly aloof from the political life of the country. It seems to me that in a country like ours and with conditions as they are, we cannot achieve what we have set out to do by merely passing resolutions, and so long as the fundamentals of life remain the same, so long as India is not a free country, no progress in the real sense is possible, and I venture to suggest in all humility that this Conference should also consider this point of view.

Our difficulties are increased by the tragic aspect of the world situation, and the question of woman's rights is getting merged in the larger and more important one of the rights of humanity. This makes it immediately necessary for women of every nation to unite and strengthen the causes of democracy and peace of which the woman's cause is a part. The terrible sufferings inflicted in Africa, Europe and China must inspire all women to further effort. The struggle for equal rights may continue, but the urgent need is for us to restore to the world its balance and give back to men a true sense of values. The terrible shadow of war must not be allowed to increase. All through the ages, the East, and specially India, has given a message of peace and hope to a world grown weary with strife and hatred. Let us remember it is still the proud privilege of the women of India to uphold all those traditions which have made her great in the past. Let us work for equality and freedom for our sex by all means, but let us not forget the more important issue of equality and freedom for humanity, and by joining our forces to those who work towards this, let us help to make the world beautiful to live in. Only then shall we justify our great inheritance and past glory.

Sir Hari Singh Gour addressing the gathering, spoke as follows —

I have listened with the utmost interest to the learned and illuminating address delivered by the Lady President Rajkumari Amrit Kaur. References have been made to her great services in England for the women of India, when she went as one of the three representatives of your sex before the Joint Parliamentary Committee. I happened to be an eye-witness of the great work that she did in championing the cause of the women of India and I can assure you that had it not been for Rajkumari Amrit Kaur and Mrs. Hamid Ali and her colleague, the position of the women in India under the new Constitution of 1935 would have been far worse than what you find it to-day.

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women should take up this burning question which we like mere men have been fighting and struggling with our backs to the wall so long unsuccessfully trying to remove the man-made legislations that the women should be given the rights that belong to the women, just as man enjoys the rights belonging to him.

The other question, which might come within your five year plan, is the question regarding the status of women. The status of women to-day has greatly improved. But there is a great deal more to be done in order to bring about a reciprocity and mutuality between men and women. The respect that is due to a woman would arise when her social rights, when her individual rights are safeguarded, and they can only be safeguarded by law. We stand here and speak of our sisters as our sisters, deliver an eloquent harangue and go home and treat them exactly as they have been treated for the last 200 years or so. Here my friend Dr. Khare described and described truly the condition of women in this country, that in childhood she belongs to the father, in adult age she is the property of her husband, and in old age she must obey her son. That state of perpetual dependence, enunciated by our greatest law-givers Manu, has in practice continued down to-day, and the numerous disabilities from which the women suffer even to-day, and have suffered for all time, is due to the feeling in the mind of every person that women live by the sufferance of men. I wish to establish sexual equality between men and women, not only in the field of law but in the social order also, and that will not be brought about unless you have, as I have pointed out, more equal and equitable status given to women-married or unmarried-and treat women exactly in the same manner as the law treats the man. I have the utmost support with the cosmopolitan sympathy shown by the women of this country to the fallen nations, but I think, that sympathy might well be spared for the fallen condition of the women in this country, whose social uplift is not only necessary but has long been overdue. I would not touch upon the education, upon the question of the monogamous marriage laws and upon numerous other questions which would make your Five Year Plan extremely concrete, a living and useful plan, upon which you shall be able to mark the progress of the women of India.

Mrs Grace Lankester, Liaison Officer of the British Women's Societies co-operating with the All India Women's Conference, next addressed the gathering as follows:-

I am told that first of all I must read to you the messages that I bring from my country women in Great Britain

The first message is from our Liaison Group that co-operates with this Conference -

"The Liaison Group sends its good wishes in a very practical form this year through its Liaison Officer, Mrs Grace Lankester."

From the Women's Freedom League -

"The women's Freedom League sends its heartiest good wishes to the All-India Women's Conference and sincerely hopes that their work will be entirely successful."

From the British Section of the Women's International League for peace and freedom:-

"It is a matter for great satisfaction to the British Section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom that their message of greeting can be brought in person by Mrs. Lankester.

"We value the links between our own organisations that have been strengthened by the presence of Mrs. Hamid Ali at the Luhacovice Congress

"To the Indian women assembled at Nagpur we send our warmest greetings and good wishes, assuring them of our continued co-operation "

It is with very mixed feelings that I stand before you to-day. My first feeling is one of intense joy at being with you and very real gratitude to your Standing Committee for having given me this wonderful invitation. My second feeling is one of the very heavy responsibility that I hold when I go back to my own country and try to interpret your movement, your outlook, and your ideals to those British Women's Societies and to the other men and women who are interested in what you are doing. There is a third feeling, and that is one of very deep humility. I really feel extremely humble when I hear of all the kind things that were said about me by your President and in the Annual Report, and I can tell you that they have grossly exaggerated what I have been able to do, and I want you to think of me as a person having come to this Conference as a representative of those British Women's Societies who are behind you in the work that you are doing. I was glad at the visit of your President and Begum Hamid Ali and Dr Reddi which has already been referred to. We were filled with admiration for the work and ideals that they have put before our British Government. It was to our intense regret that all their demands were not acceded to fully, because they were right in making them as they did, and in that way this link began and we wanted to go on working with you and trying to interpret in our own country what you were doing. I have felt very strongly as I have been sitting here this evening that there is very little that we of Great Britain have to teach you in your movement. In fact I should like to say that I think we have now got to learn new methods and new outlook from you. When I heard speaker after speaker, and especially the Prime Minister of this Province, emphasizing the need of men

and women working together, I felt that it raised an echo in my own heart. I do believe that women have their special contribution to make. But I do feel the importance of men and women working together and you have now been given Governments in power in so many provinces that really follow all those principles for which you have been asking. I wish I could tell you some of the messages personal messages—sent to me before I came away that my friends wished to deliver to you. That I find is impossible, and I only want to tell you one, because it re-echoes what your President has said. A friend of mine wrote to me before I left, saying, "Will you show the women you meet that all our sympathies are with them?"

Then I want to say one more thing before I sit down. We women in England who are in this movement are having a very hard, uphill fight, and we are looking to you with your fundamental belief in non-violence that you ought to help us, and we feel that we need the links of friendship and understanding between women of all lands at this time, and that will serve as a spiritual barrier to stem the tides of war.

In proposing a vote of thanks to the President and other speakers, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu said.—

Friends,—Somebody said that this All-India Women's Conference had been referred to as a tea party, and my hopes were raised very high. But there was no tea and there were more speeches, and I am afraid there would not be dinner either in our homes. So I do not propose to make a speech; I hate making speeches, I never make speeches unless I am compelled. To-night, as befits the All-India Women's Conference, as an old grandmother of the family, I have a very charming task, though a difficult one, of saying 'thank you' in whatever language you like, but I will ask your permission to say it in the English language, because courtesy demands that the guests we have invited should also understand our gratitude to them.

I do not know who has got to propose a vote of thanks to me; but I have to propose a vote of thanks to several people. Who would believe that anybody but a woman or a woman's gathering could bring on the same platform two Prime Ministers, one the administrative Prime Minister, Dr. Khare, the other the Congress Prime Minister of the province unofficially, Seth Jamnalal Bajaj? And a miracle of miracles, who but women would have dared to bring the fiery Dr. Khare on the same platform with the gentle Sir Moropant Joshi? So you see, this tea party organisation has a wonderfully reconciled effect, and makes the lion and the lamb lie down together in obedience to the gentle wand the woman waves.

I agree with Dr. Khare that this women's movement should only be a women's movement relatively speaking and with a time limit to it. The only reason for a women's movement as a temporary separate movement is that women should co-ordinate and mobilise their strength to the greater solidarity, to make a common contribution to national progress. And this organisation has always stood for the anti-feminist movement in the sense that it does not acknowledge that women need to be separated from men. Our women have no inferiority complex and do not require the labels of isolation, of segregation, of concession, of favour, and of privilege. We only demand the right to serve, and none shall challenge that right of service. That is the motto of this organisation.

My friend, Seth Jamnalal Bajaj represents the organisation of which I am, like my friend Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit, an humble servant. He represents a kind of selfless service which might be emulated by men and women alike. My friend, Dr. Khare, represents to-day the embodied ideal of a great organisation whose President I have the honour to be, whose soldier I shall continue to be while breath lasts in my body and even after, he represents to be the servant of those millions and millions of men and women who so long for so many centuries have been deprived of their human rights, and it is for the restoration of the human right of the humanized humanity that this Congress Prime Minister has been elected to serve the nation.

My friend, Dr. Hari Singh Gour, has got a plausible way of applauding the right of property of the younger generation of militants. I have no property to inherit. I am already married. Whatever rights, whatever wrongs may be mine, it is too late to discuss them now. But Sir Hari Singh Gour through fair weather and foul weather has been a friend and champion of Indian women. I do not think any words in any language could be too strong in praise of his great and brave and sometimes unpopular services in the cause of womanhood.

Sir Moropant Joshi has two qualifications for our gratitude. First of all, of course, because he is one of the most distinguished men of his generation and he has used his great culture, his great experience, his great sympathy always in the cause of women and the women are the pivot of social progress, but we thank him not only for his work in this direction, but more personal thanks are due to him, because he has given us a daughter in Rani Lakshmbai Rajwade. Many years ago I named her as the spirit of India standing militant, strong, and brave. To have produced a daughter like that is a cause of thanks, not of one or two, but of many times.

Now we have the paradox of a woman Minister. What a peculiar country this India is ! Sir Harisingh Gour tells us we are down-trodden, oppressed,

mean, vile, non-existent. And suddenly we see before us a woman Minister! You know Lord Lothian mentioned that there are certain strong minded ladies as Ministers tackling with administrative problems, looking at files, issuing orders, promoting, degrading, and doing various things of that sort. But when you think that a delegate of this Conference, a member of this tea party body, this tiny person who is carved out of the mother-of-pearl, fragile as a flower, standing up before you in the name of Indian womanhood, I think her right to the highest offices of the state is a triumph of this woman's organisation and the ideals for which it stands. Do not be deceived by that gentle voice and those appealing eyes. Do not be deceived by something like 'abala' speaking to you, it is the voice of the woman of India returning into her accustomed inheritance of Shakti, the power that creates and the power that destroys, and we thank her for being herself to-day the symbol of many lovely and brave things for which the women of India stand.

There are other women here from other provinces elected by the representatives of their own provinces to be members of the Councils and Assemblies. In Mrs. Kale you have the redoubtable Deputy Speaker. You have also a lady who is not yet perhaps very familiar to you, straight out of the purdah, who adorns the chair of the Deputy Speaker of the most purdah-ridden province of India, the United Provinces, born in purdah but can do democratic service when the call comes to her. I want you to see what young Indian womanhood is like, through whom we live, through whom we shall live, who are fulfilling the dreams that we have dreamed, who will reap the harvest of the seeds that we have sowed.

To Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, no thanks are due. She has been thanked in anticipation of the things she is going to do during her year of service. The same Lord Lothian told me the other day that Rajkumari Amrit Kaur is the most formidable woman without exception who appeared before the Joint Select committee in England. He asked me if I knew her, saying that she is the most formidable, nothing would shake her, firm as a rock. And I wanted to say, 'No, firm as a lighthouse upon a rock' And I can pay no greater tribute to her to-day than to say that in these troubled years ahead of us, in these troubled times with the storms breaking hither and thither about the head of the nation, she will be a lighthouse upon a rock, by which the mariners will steer the boat safe for us to reach the shores of national emancipation. Let me rather say, that I thank her in the name of that band of self-sacrificing workers who have dedicated themselves to the cause of womanhood, in whose ranks we can count Ranis, Princesses, physicians, lawyers, teachers, women of the depressed classes, women of the labouring classes, the sad, the happy, the poor and the rich, the hungry and well-fed and the too well fed. I am saying this for one reason. In spite of all the limitations which I cannot deny, inspite of all the

trammels sometimes by compulsion of circumstances, this women's organisation, not excepting the Indian National Congress even, is in my opinion the most representative body in India, and for this reason it is that we have here on a common platform women of every rank and every shade of political opinion. There are people like me--you know what I am--a criminal, a felon, a prisoner, because I want Liberty--there are women who belong to the Liberal Federation, there are women who are socialists, there are women who are Bolsheviks, there are women who are wedded to politics, there are women who belong to the Muslim League, there are English women, there are Parsi women, Muslim women, Sikh women, Hindu women--women of all shades of colour, the whole polychromatic state of humanity is here, and the triumph of this conference is that we have amongst us women like the Princess of Berar, we have amongst us women who belong to the most advanced and to the most timid of organisations, whether political or social, and which gives India a common indivisible sisterhood of women, that nothing can disunite. And in future as the body progresses, as the constitution widens, and larger and larger as its interests come to be, the watchword of this organisation should be: **Let the spirit of unity prevail; so that the largest common measure of agreement on ideals will be the basis, on which the most progressive and the less progressive will still unite in common service to that mother that must be free.**

After "Vande Mataran" was sung the proceedings terminated.

All-India Women's Conference

FIRST SITTING—29th December 1937, 9 A.M. to 12 Noon.

Before commencing the work, the President requested all those present to join her in the following prayer, which was observed in silence, all standing —

"O Almighty Father—in offering our tribute of praise at Thy Throne of Grace we thank Thee for having given us this opportunity of meeting together once again.

"Guide our deliberations, bless our humble endeavours, grant us wisdom to pursue the right course, grant us patience and understanding, give us the strength to stand by our convictions and, above all fill us with the spirit of love which will enable us to sacrifice our all in selfless service".

The Annual Report of the Hon Organising Secretary and the Balance Sheet from the Hon. Treasurer were then adopted

The President then asked the *Sectional Secretaries and the Conveners of the Sub-Committees to read their respective reports, which were formally adopted
The Conference then adjourned to 1 P.M

SECOND SITTING—29th December 1937, 1 P.M. to 4-30 P.M.

The Second Sitting of the Conference commenced at 1 P.M. with Rajkumari Amrit Kaur in the Chair.

Members of the Standing Committee, representing the following Constituencies were asked by the President to read out their annual reports in the following order by ballot :—

| | | |
|--|-----|----------------------|
| Gujarat | ... | Hyderabad (Deccan) |
| Bombay | . | ... U. P. Agra |
| Baroda | ... | ... Assam |
| Travancore | .. | Calcutta |
| C. P. North | | Gwalior |
| Bengal East with Comilla Sub-Constituency. | | Phaltan |

* Sectional and Sub-Committee Reports printed at the end of the Report of third day's proceedings.

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------|-----|---|
| C. P. South | .. | . | Bihar |
| Sangli | | | Berar |
| Indore | | . | Maharashtra |
| Mysore | .. | .. | U.P. Oudh with Moradabad Sub-Constituency. |
| Konkan | | ... | Cochin |
| Delhi with Simla | Sub-Constituency | | Sind |
| | | | Karnatak |

The Conference then proceeded with the Educational Resolutions.

EDUCATIONAL RESOLUTIONS.

"This Conference urges the universal introduction of free and compulsory Primary Education without further delay. With this purpose in view we request the authorities --

- (a) To provide for properly trained teachers the majority of whom should be women
- (b) To request the Government of each Province and State to make adequate provision for this item in the budget for the next year;
- (c) To make provision for the re-orientation of such education with special stress laid on vocational training,
- (d) In order to effect economy, "the shift system" be introduced where possible and boys and girls be taught together
- (e) In rural areas where necessary, "seasonal" education be arranged for
- (f) That buildings however simple, with playgrounds and adequate sanitary arrangements be provided in suitable localities
- (g) That medical inspection and treatment begin at this stage and be made compulsory by legislation, and care should be taken for employing efficient doctors
- (h) That all Primary Education should be on a noncommunal basis "

In moving the first part of the resolution urging universal introduction of free and compulsory primary education without further delay by providing properly trained teachers, majority of whom should be women, **The Hon'ble Mrs. Vijayalaxmi Pandit** said that the Conference had been voicing the demand for a number of years but lack of funds had stood in the way of the realisation of the ideal. Primary education was the right of every child, and it was the duty of every Government to provide it, just as it was its duty to provide for the health of the child. So long as

compulsory primary education had not been introduced, they could not hope for any real and lasting progress. Now that various Governments were seriously engaged in formulating proposals for primary education, she urged all her sisters to agitate for the demand with one voice

Mrs G. R. Billimoria (Bombay) in seconding the resolution pointed out that India was a poor country as compared with countries in the West where people were able to look after the education of their children. It was therefore incumbent on the Government to find the requisite money to provide free and compulsory primary education. She was also of opinion that more women teachers should be employed because women could teach much better than men as women had the motherly instinct and could handle children with love and tact. She emphasized the importance of employing properly trained teachers, because, however perfect the curriculum may be on paper, it was the teaching that counted for much of the progress of the pupils. In order to attract properly trained teachers, the status of teachers should be raised by giving them good salaries.

Miss Bhanumathi Amma of Travancore and Miss Thapar of Punjab also supported the first part of the resolution.

Part (a) of The resolution was carried unanimously.

The following resolutions were moved from the Chair and passed unanimously —

Condolence Resolution (1) This Conference expresses its heart-felt sympathies towards Lady Bose for the sad and untimely demise of Sir Jagadish Chandar Bose, one of the greatest sons of India.

Congratulatory Resolutions:—(2) This Conference congratulates the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore for having placed on its Legislature the "Act for the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Children."

This Conference also congratulates the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore for passing the "Maternity Benefits Act" by which women working in factories are given leave on full pay for four weeks before and four weeks after confinement.

(3) This Conference congratulates His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad and Berar for having so graciously accorded his consent to the "Hindu Widow Remarriage Bill."

(4) This Conference congratulates H. H. the Maharajah of Travancore for so graciously giving his assent to the Hindu Widow Remarriage Bill recently passed by both the Houses of Legislature in the State.

(5) This Conference congratulates the Government of H H the Maharajah of Travancore for appointing, for the first time in India, a woman to the Judiciary of the State

(6) This Conference congratulates Mrs Anna Chandy on her appointment as the first woman Munsiff in India, in Travancore State

(7) This Conference congratulates the Government of H H. the Maharajah of Gwalior for passing into law the Widow Remarriage Act

Evil Social Customs (8) This Conference expresses its emphatic protest against such evil social customs, as undue expenses on occasions of marriage and death, sale of brides and bridegrooms, dowry, prejudice against widow remarriage, polygamy, intensive-intercaste marriages, and purdah.

Obscene Literature and Advertisement (9) (a) This Conference lodges its emphatic protest against the circulation, overt, as well as, covert of obscene literature throughout India

(b) We have cause to believe that such obnoxious literature is provided by small bookstall holders for the younger generation, that is, to students of schools and colleges and of both sexes.

(c) We therefore request the authorities concerned to take drastic and immediate steps into the matter and stamp out the evil as soon as possible and give every encouragement to the publication of better literature,

(d) We further request the public and Government to censure all such journals and newspapers that continue to indulge in the pernicious practice of publishing obscene and outrageous articles and advertisements which constitute an insult to woman-hood in general and violate all the laws of decency in a manner that cannot be tolerated by any civilised nation.

Bills Pending Legislation (10) This Conference supports Mr. Rajah's Bill for removing the disabilities of depressed classes.

(11) This Conference supports the amendments proposed by Mr. B Das and Mr. Lalchand Navalrai in the Central Legislative Assembly on the Sarda Act and expresses its opinion that an additional clause should be added to the Act, so that people who celebrate child marriages outside British territory in order to evade the consequences of the Act, though residents of British India, may be punished and that this Act should be so amended as to declare all marriages performed under the contravention of the Sarda Act null and void

Legal Disabilities of women (12) This Conference strongly protests against existing discriminations in the Hindu Law against the rights of women. It demands that the existing laws should be so amended as to make them equitable and just

Recording Of Marriages, Births And Deaths (13) This Conference recommends that all Municipalities and local authorities in British India and the States should pass rules and regulations for compulsory official recording of all marriages and deaths.

Child protection (14) This Conference is emphatically of opinion that Children's Acts should be introduced at an early date in places wherever they do not exist, both in the Provinces and States,

Rural Uplift (15) This Conference views with grave concern the conditions of life in general in Indian villages particularly in regard to education and sanitation. We have confidently hope that the Government will do every thing possible to further the cause which all well-wishers of India have at heart, and support the request of the Karachi Constituency to enable it to carry out the constructive programme which it has in view about the Chanesar village by extending the help sought for by the local workers of the A I W. C.

Legislation For Beggars (16) This Conference strongly disapproves the prevalence of professional begging and urges legislation for its prevention, and calls upon the public to co-operate by diverting their charities in this sphere towards the creation and support of institutions, and for the provision of Beggar Homes, Work Houses and Infirmaries, and enforce legislation for the eradication of this evil,

Women In Legislatures (17) This Conference congratulates all women M L A's and members of the Upper Houses, and hopes that they will work for women's cause and sponsor bills on urgent social reform in the legislatures, It feels particularly gratified that the U. P. Assembly have taken the lead in appointing Mrs. Pandit as the first woman Minister and also congratulates other Provincial Legislatures who have appointed women as Deputy Presidents and Parliamentary Secretaries,

Women In Departmental Services (19) This Conference urges that no sex disqualifications should be shown for debarring women from services in any department of Government.

Women In Jails (20) This Conference draws particular attention of the various provincial Governments to the extremely unsatisfactory condition of women in Jails and calls upon them to take effective measures for their mental and moral uplift,

Opium And other Harmful Drugs (21) This Conference resolves that:

(a) The Government of India be asked to undertake an inquiry and find out the exact amount of opium needed for medical purposes in India

with a view to the curtailment and gradual reduction in poppy cultivation, and also for reporting to the League of Nations which is preparing for an Opium Conference in 1939-1940

- (b) Registration of opium addicts and smokers must be undertaken in each Province by a Provincial Government Department created specially for registration of opium addicts and opium smokers.
- (c) Each person desiring to be registered should be certified by a doctor appointed by Government.
- (d) A minimum dose to be fixed, and sealed packets of different weights to be made up by a Central Government Department administered in the same manner as the postal and revenue stamps department. No dose to be given to an uncertified person; any person wanting to have more than the standard dose—to be certified by a Board of Directors appointed by Government.
- (e) Licensed opium shops to be abolished and Government opium depots to be opened.
- (f) In case of smokers no prescribed dose of opium be given unless and until the dross from the previous dose is returned. Medicated opium according to the League of Nations prescription should replace opium sold in its present form
- (g) The allotment of the doses of opium to addicts should be under the direct supervision of a medical or Health Department created specially for this purpose, with instructions to reduce the dose gradually and to refuse to give any more to those who have reached the minimum. Such persons may be kept under observation in a special central sanatorium for a prescribed time and prophylactic treatment may be given to them
- (h) That each unit of the A. I. W. C. should consult a panel of medical practitioners to find out the exact amount of opium necessary for medical needs for that particular area. That such information should be sent to the Convener of the Opium Sub-Committee of the A. I. W. C. That Government should also undertake to register charas, bhang and other dangerous drug addicts and take the same measures for restriction of sale and gradual elimination of production of these drugs (This resolution was explained in Hindi by Begum Hamid Ali.)

22. **Facilities For Third Class Railway Passengers.** This Conference requests the railway authorities to add more third-class carriages to avoid unhealthy over-crowding of passengers in the third-class compartments and appeals

to the railway companies to make separate arrangements for issuing tickets to men and women on railway stations for third-class passengers, especially on stations of pilgrimage where the necessity is very great. Besides, wherever it is possible, women ticket officers and ticket-examiners should be provided for, and there should be separate entrance and exit for women on railway stations.

23. Housing Facility For Labourers. This Conference is of opinion that the labouring populations should have healthy dwelling-houses with plenty of air and light, facilities for water and its disposal and proper sanitary arrangements.

24. Women Workers Eliminated From Mines. This meeting of the All India Women's Conference strongly urges the Government and the authorities concerned to take immediate action for the provision of suitable employment for women workers eliminated from mines and the fixing of adequate minimum wage for men mine workers whose family income has been reduced by such elimination.

25. Unregulated Industries This Conference urges upon the Government the necessity of introducing legislation to regulate the condition of hours of work in unregulated industries.

26. Status Of Women In India. This Conference is of opinion that the status of women in India should be included in the inquiry on the Status of women by the League of Nations.

General. This Conference congratulates Professor D. K. Karve, the veteran champion of women's education, on his having attained the age of eighty, and records their heartfelt appreciation of his splendid work in this sphere, and one or two members of the A. I. W. C. be deputed as representatives to take part in his 80th Birth-day celebration.

The President then moved the following resolution,—

18. Protest Against Wars Of Aggression. "While the memory of the cruel rape of Abyssinia is still fresh in our minds, and the horrors of the fratricidal warfare in Spain continue to haunt us, Japan's ruthless aggression against China has come, as it were, as a further blow to shatter all our hopes of peace. We are bitterly disappointed at the incapacity and inability of all the so-called great powers of the world to put an end to the injustices consequent on the oppression of the weak and poor. We are convinced that increasing armaments of warfare by land, sea and air, and the harnessing of the knowledge of science for the purpose of destruction are not going to bring peace to a troubled and stricken world. We feel that it is through the weapons of

love alone that new order can be ushered in. Standing on the threshold of another year we dedicate ourselves to non-violence in thought, word and deed, and appeal to women throughout the world to join hands with us, for we are confident that this doctrine alone can quell the desire for possession, can save the nations from racial jealousies and communal strife and protect humanity from oppression and exploitation."

She said, As the Standing Committee has done me the honour of accepting the draft resolution, and translation of that in Hindi has also been read to you, I want just to say one word in connection with it, and that is that we all pass this resolution appealing to the women of the world to join hands with us. I do want to take this opportunity, as we have our Liaison Officer with us here, of asking her to carry this message not only to England but to Europe, and on our behalf to ask the women of the world to come to rescue of suffering humanity. We pride ourselves that we as a country are great, not only in our culture but in the spirit of ahimsa. I hope we shall never fail to show that to the world. But I do want that women all over the world should come to the rescue of suffering humanity to-day by the propagation of the message of peace, and I hope that Mrs Lankester will take this message to our sisters in England and in Europe and America, and I hope that through the Press it will go to the sisters of the Far East.

Mrs. Grace Lankester, Liaison Officer of the Group of British Women's Societies co-operating with the All India Women's Conference, said Madam Chairman and friends, I cannot express to you in words how important this resolution is to me, and those with whom I am working in England in connection with the peace movement. One of the Societies is the Women's International League for Peace and freedom, the International Congress of which your representative Begum Hamid Ali attended last summer. As I told you last night, we are having a very, very uphill time of trouble in this work of peace, and when I go back to England and have the opportunity of telling them of this resolution that you are considering—and I hope you are going to pass it with all your hearts and minds—I shall do so with the greatest joy, and it is going to bring our hearts together in a really wonderful way. And as I tried to make an appeal to you last night, you should come to our help with your fundamental belief in non-violence and I believe that you are doing this in a very wonderful way. I want to say one word more. When I leave India, I am going to Egypt for a fortnight to meet the members of the newly formed section of the Egyptian Branch of this Women's International League by a group of women working on parallel lines, and who will join hands with us in this work for peace, and it is going to strengthen my hands there. I shall tell them that you have passed this resolution here, and in this way as your President has said, we may be joining hands all round the world in the fundamental

belief of non-violence to stem the tide of war, and in this, in your work and what it stands for—non-villence in thought and word and deed—I think it is what we are taught in England—you are taking the lead I thank you very much.

Miss Ferozuddin and Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade supported this resolution in Hindi and Marathi respectively.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Conference then adjourned to the next day.

THIRD SITTING 30th December 1937

10-30 A. M. to 12-30 P. M.

The Third Sitting of the Conference commenced at 10-30 A. M. with Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, the President, in the Chair

The President made the following announcement—According to the programme on the Agenda I ought to have taken up the amendments to the existing constitution this morning, but because I am given to understand by the delegates that they have not had time to consider the proposed amendment that has been put forward by the Convener of the Constitution Sub-Committee, I think it would be better for me to give them this morning to study the amendments and take this question this afternoon. We shall therefore proceed with the resolutions this morning.

I want to say a few words to the delegates in regard to the amendments to the constitution. In order to make the position clear, I want to ask the delegates in this connection when the matter of the constitution comes up to look upon it in the widest possible sense, to bring to bear on the position all the understanding, all the patience, and all the forbearance that is within their power to bring, and which it is our duty to bring, when we consider questions that are of vital importance to our very existence. I want you to realise that life is a compromise. Our individual lives in our homes would be unbearable if it was not a question of give and take. My own personal opinion in regard to this matter you are well acquainted with. There is no question of my forcing my views on you or of any body forcing his or her views on you. It is for you delegates to reason things out for yourselves, to realise what is your duty, and I have no doubt that this afternoon you will come with your hearts full of love for the Conference and absolutely pure motives. Whatever is done, is for the good of the country, and not only for the good of the country, but for the good of the women of India.

Discussion on the Educational Resolutions was resumed

Primary Education —(Part (b))

' To request the Government of each Province and State to make adequate provision for this item in the budget for the next year "

In proposing this part of the resolution, Mrs. S. N. Ray said We have already heard yesterday from the Hon'ble Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit and other speakers about the necessity for the primary education, and I do not think that it is necessary to urge this again before a Conference of this nature. At the same time we must realise that even the best of things will not help us very much if we had not the finances behind us. Every Provincial Government, whether it was Congress or otherwise, had given us election pledges and told us that they would bring in free and compulsory primary education at the first opportunity. We must now press upon it to find room in their budgets for the next year for proper provision for primary education. It is no good having the best of schemes but at the last moment being told by Government that it has not the money for it. In order that they may be able to find the money for this scheme of primary education afterwards, let us from now press this point on to them. There is not much to say on this matter, but we must, when we go back, each of us in our own constituencies, press our Provincial Governments and see that they do make this provision, because otherwise everything will be delayed.

Miss Ferozuddin (Punjab central) seconding the resolution, said I want to draw your attention to the imperative necessity of primary education for children. One object of voicing our views in this Conference is that the Provincial Governments should know what we feel in this matter. Unless there should be free and compulsory primary education for all boys and girls, they will lapse into illiteracy and be engaged in factories, which is ruinous to their health in the future. We should therefore look upon this not as a mere resolution but from the point of view of real constructive work. It is the duty of every delegate to prepare the ground for compulsory primary education in her neighbourhood, so that when it comes into existence there should be no opposition from any quarter, and you will hear no excuses from Government that there is no money for compulsory primary education.

Clause (b) was put to vote and carried unanimously.

"Primary Education—Part (c)

To make provision for the re-orientation of such education with special stress laid on vocational training."

In moving part (c) of the resolution Mrs. Theobald (Mysore) said; I have much pleasure in moving this resolution because I assure you we have got to provide vocational training for our sisters which is lacking especially among the women of the villages. I speak from experience because I am running a vocational institution for women, who are coming from the village, women who are sadly neglected, and if one happens to be a widow her life is extremely pitiful. Our duty is to make that neglected woman a more useful woman, a woman more fit to mix with other women, in the villages, a woman who will not be considered a burden, and a woman who would be welcome in every home. I assure you, Ladies, it would be a great help if we could give vocational training for school women who I conceive are suffering from an inferiority complex and are discarded—I use the word 'discarded' because every one seems to neglect them. If we introduce vocational training, we shall make not only the widow but every woman a most useful and happy woman, and I feel it is our duty to unite in providing for vocational training which is very essential for women and for bringing women forward in India. I am sure I am voicing the sentiments of everybody in the house when I say that if we who live in cities and are well provided for go to the villages and study conditions there, we will find that it is the village women we should provide for. So I would like vocational training started in every village. With these words I hope you will support this resolution wholeheartedly.

Mrs. Vinode (Phaltan) in seconding the resolution said; The futility of the present modern education from the economic point of view will be evident from our number of unemployed in the country. It is necessary therefore that there should be some reform in the system of education Gandhiji called recently a meeting at Wardha to consider the question of primary education, and the foundation of all education is primary, not to say primitive, education, and therefore reform of the primary education system should be our first step to take. And primary education should be compulsory which will mean that every villager will be educated. One reason why the villagers do not send their children to school is that they are only taught to read and write, which is of no help in their occupations. And the second reason is that the village children begin to feel that it is below their dignity to do any manual work. If we give vocational training to the children of cobblers, potters, carpenters, and so on, we proceed from known to the unknown, and therefore I support the resolution.

Mrs. Hirlekar (Bombay) supporting the resolution (in Marathi) said: It has already been said that the present system of education is only literary and educated people amongst us are averse to vocational training. Our country is fast becoming industrialised, Therefore the educated classes of this country should be prepared for vocational education. Therefore it is necessary that we

should introduce reform in our present system of education so as to make it more vocational and practical. Even in an agricultural country like India the only way to solve our economic problems is to industrialise India.

Mrs. Kanitkar (Maharashtra) said in Marathi, I oppose the resolution. The first thing in the matter of compulsory primary education is finance. Therefore we must first provide for finance. Vocational education in schools for children will mean ruin of their life from the very beginning. The most joyful period of life is the first ten years of childhood, and vocational training in that period will mean great strain on the part of the children and destruction of that joy of childhood. Therefore they should be given only primary compulsory education and not vocational training in the first ten years, and I advocate vocational training to be given during the period of the secondary education.

Mrs Patwardhan (Maharashtra) opposing the resolution in Marathi said: I support the opposition to the resolution. I do not think that it is necessary to burden the young child with all this vocational training. Already there is a move that the hours of school attendance by children should be reduced. And to burden them now with vocational training with the already long school hours would mean taking away pleasures from the life of the child. I hope everybody will support this opposition.

An amendment was allowed to this Resolution that instead of vocational training, the words "training in handicrafts" may be substituted.

The amended resolution clause (c) was carried, 59 voting for and 10 against.

"Primary Education—Parts (d), (e), and (f).—

(d) In order to effect economy, "the shift system" be introduced where possible and boys and girls be taught together.

(e) In rural areas where necessary "seasonal" education be arranged for.

(f) That buildings however simple, with playgrounds and adequate sanitary arrangements be provided in suitable localities."

Dr. Mrs. Sukthanker (Bombay), in proposing the above, said. The resolution as a whole deals with free and compulsory primary education. Nobody is against it, and everybody says we want it. But the trouble is that there is no money. And that is why we have got to consider what different methods we may adopt for economy; and "shift" is one of the systems which had been used very successfully in Bombay and I am going to tell you what exactly we do in that matter. In the infant classes where the curriculum is very simple and the children are not to be taught much, we have the same number of teachers teaching different sets of children. That is to say in the infant classes we have in Bombay about 40,000 children learning.

roughly we would have already about 1,500 teachers, involving an expenditure of nearly Rs. 75,000. In place of that we only have 750 teachers who teach the same number of children at different times in the same rooms. So we save on teachers and many other things. And that is how we are able to teach more children with the same amount of money, and that is why this is a measure which could be used with success, and we will not hear the usual cry that we have no money.

The other clause in the resolution is (e), namely, that we should have seasonal education. If we want to give free compulsory education, we will compel children to attend school. But, we find in rural areas especially, that the children are doing something at different seasons and they are not able to come. So we have got to see that we give them this education at a time when they can come that is, when they are free from their seasonal duties. That is why we urge that such seasonal education should be arranged for.

The next clause (f) requires no explanation from me at all. When we are going to have compulsory education, we are surely going to compel the children to come, and it is but proper that the children should be taught in suitable rooms and they should also have playgrounds. If we compel them to come to school and if we teach them in a room where there is no light and air, and if we do not provide them with playgrounds, it will be really a torture to the poor children. We must have these measures brought into existence if we wish to have compulsory and free education as soon as possible.

Mrs. Gokhale (Sangli) in seconding the resolution in Marathi said: We have just heard what is meant by "shift system". We also tried the same system. India is economically a poor country. If we are agreed that primary education is necessary for all children, we have to provide for such education in the maximum possible degree within the minimum of finances. I do not think I should say anything more on this. You have been told how Bombay is giving education to double the number of children with the same number of teachers. Many schools cannot afford to have good buildings to accommodate all children at the same time. Therefore, if some classes are held in the morning and others in the evening, we shall be able to accommodate all children and give better education. So far I have spoken of primary education. But we have tried this experiment in our province in the matter of secondary education also. We have tried to give education in secondary schools from 7 to 10 A.M. and 11 A.M. to 2 P.M. I am informed that these children are in no way inferior to children who attend school for the whole day.

The next question is about the building. If the shift system is introduced it will be easier to have better buildings for a large number of children.

The next clause deals with seasonal education. It will be found in villages that the sons of agriculturists are not sent to school because they are useful at home during the harvesting season, and the children have to work in the fields during the season. If we give them seasonal education we shall be able to relieve their parents and they will be willing to send their children to school during the slack seasons.

Mrs. Viond(Phaltan) opposing clause (d) said in Marathi: I have a little opposition to clause (d) of the resolution. It has been said that the shift system should be for primary education only. But the delegate who seconded the resolution said that she has been trying it for the secondary education classes also. After teaching a class of 40-50 boys in the morning, I do not think it will be possible for the same teacher to take another class of 40-50 boys in the afternoon. I feel that the shift system should be abolished altogether, and I oppose it most strongly.

Dr Mrs Sukthanker (Bombay). Madam President and delegates, Mrs Vinod has opposed the resolution. Before I answer the opposition I have been asked to tell you what she has said in English. Her objection is on the ground of a teacher—she is a teacher herself. She says that if you want to effect economy in the field of education, you can explore all avenues of economy except in the matter of the teacher's salary, because the teachers are certainly affected by the shift system. She also says that the mover has moved the resolution only for the infant class but the seconder said that the shift system has also been tried in regard to secondary education, that is the first and second standard, and she thought that it would be in the interests of the children to have it in the higher standards.

Mrs W. H. Theobald (Mysore). I am in favour of the opposition as I see we are economising where money is concerned but not economising where the health of our teachers is concerned. We really need to consider our teachers. The shift system is not going to give our teachers any rest or interval during teaching periods. I have the greatest consideration for teachers, and I feel each one, who is a teacher, has a right to have a little rest between the various periods of teaching she has to put in. So please support me in opposing it.

Miss Ferozuddin (Punjab). I want to say one word in favour of the shift system. The teacher will not be overworked because she will not be expected to put in more hours of work. Her work will be limited within the hours that she is usually expected to work. Then if you impart seasonal education you will be encouraging education in the villages. I know from my own experience what difficulty we have when the time of cotton picking comes.

Mrs Sathe (Berar) in supporting the resolution spoke in Marathi. Mrs.

Vinod has opposed the resolution because she has not properly understood the resolution. She has pleaded for teachers. But we do not say that the teacher will be asked to put in seven hours work. The teacher will be required to work for five hours only, and therefore if the tuition can be given within two and a half hours, I do not see any reason why children should be burdened with more hours. Mrs. Gokhale has stated that children who have been in attendance for a smaller number of hours of teaching have been found equal to the students who have been in attendance for a greater number of hours. And when we are under financial stringency, it is necessary that we should have the shift system. I hope Mrs. Vinod will now support the resolution.

Dr. Mrs. Skuthanker Mrs Vinod has opposed this resolution on the ground that the teachers will suffer. But already the last speaker has made it clear to you that the teacher is not going to suffer in any way. We are not going to keep the teacher in the school for more than five hours which is the usual time. She will get a recess of one hour. Instead of teaching the same number of children, she gets other children for her to teach. I strongly advocate that in the first instance it should be tried in the infant class. After some time, if it is not successful, they might revert to the old system. As regards the application of this shift system to the higher standards, I have nothing to say. If we want to have mass education, this is one of the measures which we have to go in for.

The President: You have heard the two speakers speak against the three clauses. I want to know, as no amendments have been sent in to me, if I have to presume that those who opposed these three clauses wish to delete them all. I want to know if there are any delegates, who sympathise with the opposition in not having any of these three clauses passed—(d), (e), & (f).

(Votes were taken clause by clause).

Clause (d) carried by majority, Clause (e) carried unanimously, Clause (f) carried unanimously.

"Primary Education—Clause (g)—

(g) That medical inspection and treatment begin at this stage and be made compulsory by legislation."

In moving the resolution **Dr Mrs. Tarabai (Sind)** said. As the awakening of education is spreading rather rapidly in our country, the number of primary education pupils has also been increasing. Now the majority of the children that come to schools are children of parents who are uneducated

and ignorant people who certainly cannot be expected to know the principles of hygiene and sanitation, etc. So you see medical inspection in these primary schools is mostly for the children of such parents. For the children of educated or rich parents it is not quite necessary. So especially when the poor children and children of such uneducated parents come there, naturally the necessity arises that they should be examined from time to time. I just want to tell you what happened in Karachi on account of our approaching the local authorities. There the School Board authorities were asked to draft out a scheme and the administrative office drafted out one, by which the local medical practitioners were to do honorary work with Rs 25 to each such honorary medical practitioner by way of honorarium for conveyance. It so happened that the whole scheme was entrusted to me as a member of the School Board. I undertook the task of putting the scheme through, and being a medical practitioner myself I know how honestly and how conscientiously the private medical practitioner would feel the responsibility of devoting at least one or two hours daily for such work. But in actual practice it was found that, even supposing every medical practitioner was able to devote one hour daily, the time would not suffice for nearly 40,000 children that are learning in the primary schools. So we proposed that the Local Authority should sanction post of three or four doctors as permanent workers, which will really facilitate the work and our purpose will be served. But this proposal did not fructify for want of funds. Now in our city till this medical inspection question is solved by the local authority or the Government, we have undertaken to do honorary work and we have formed a Sub-Committee, and got the sanction from the Municipality for permission to go for inspection of the children. I feel that we should go on making demands to the Government to make medical inspection compulsory by legislation in our primary schools

Mrs. Gangubai Patwardhan (Baroda), I only want to say that in our municipality there is compulsory medical inspection. But parents do not respond to the work. And we find that there are several children who suffer from defective eyesight. Some of them have weak hearts, some weak brains. And all these things have been attended to without the response of the parents. There are some ignorant parents who do not know what it is that their children are suffering from. In such cases this plan of medical inspection is of great help to the improvement of children.

Mrs. Patwardhan (Maharashtra) in supporting the resolution said in Marathi: There is nothing in the resolution to which anybody can take any objection. The resolution only says that when the children are enrolled for primary education they should simultaneously undergo medical examination. You all know that children contract contagious diseases at this age and it is essential that at

this stage provision should be made for strict medical inspection. If such cases are not brought to light early, they develop into bad diseases as years advance. If proper medical examination is made, the lives of many children will be more happy and saved in time. It has also been urged that medical inspection should be made compulsory by legislation. Owing to the ignorance of parents, the diseases of children are not detected, and if inspection is made compulsory by legislation these diseases will be detected at an early stage. Apart from the physically defective children, there is the problem of the mentally defective children that the teacher has to tackle. Medical inspection will show the defects that the children suffer from, and such defective children can be shifted or separated from the normal children and carefully looked after.

Miss Ferozuddin: I just want to make an addition to this clause, namely, "and care should be taken to appoint efficient and responsible doctors." It is understood that doctors are conscious of their responsibility. I do not mean to say anything disparaging to the doctors, but the point is this: we have had the difficulty in the Punjab in this respect, where some doctors have been irresponsible enough not to let parents know publicly what the child is suffering from, and parents find that in their choice of partners for the girls they have very great difficulty. So it is very necessary that when this work is made compulsory, the doctors so appointed for medical inspection should be very responsible and very efficient.

Mrs. Ahmed (Assam). I am going to speak to you on a small but a very important matter. I fully agree with the resolution that medical inspection should be made compulsory in all schools. I feel that not only government and Municipal school but all schools should have compulsory medical examination. It is very necessary that we should all try for it, because the health of our children is deteriorating from day to day. We only care to see whether they have gone to school or not and do not care for their health nor do we care to see whether they are fit to undergo the education. I feel that there should be not only compulsory medical examination, but a specialist should be engaged to examine the eyes of children as most of the children suffer from eye diseases. We should get the support from our Municipalities in this matter. If children pass their examinations but fail in their health, it means the failure of their education. It is therefore necessary that we should emphasise the point of medical examination and health of the children. I hope all will support the motion.

Dr. Miss Natarajan (Delhi), who is specially engaged in this work in Delhi, said. If medical inspection has not had the desired effect or co-operation from the parents, I do think that the fault lies entirely with the members of the A. I. W. C. I would like to suggest to this body of voluntary workers the important and indispensable part played by school care committees in

securing legislation for medical inspection and treatment for primary school children. The school care committees follow up the medical inspection by making arrangements for the provision of school meals and distribution of milk and they are concerned with the employment of children and in the choice of their future careers. They act as links with Public Assistance Committees, they undertake work in connection with playing centres, vocational schools, holiday schemes, and they also secure the co-operation of the parents. These Care Committees should take root as an integral part of the general schemes of elementary education. Medical inspection in schools is a branch of preventive, not curative medicine, and effective and speedy legislation is necessary for the formation of Care Committees. As a practical example I may mention that in Delhi there was a cursory medical inspection without treatment, but the formation of a School Care Committee has shown good results though this experiment was started only six months ago. So I would advise all the delegates to go back to their constituencies and encourage their members to start these Care Committees and bombard the health departments to pass early legislation, and your voice will be heard.

The resolution as amended read as follows;

"(g) That medical inspection and treatment begin at this stage and be made compulsory by legislation, and care should be taken to appoint efficient and responsible doctors."

The resolution as amended was carried unanimously.

"Primary Education—Clause (h);—

(h) That all Primary Education should be on a non-communal basis."

Begum Aizaz Rasul (U P Oudh) in proposing the resolution said: "We all know that in India to-day there are hundreds and thousands of schools which are run on communal lines. I think that the present deeply rooted communalism that is rife in some parts of India is mostly the outcome of the teaching in these schools which inculcate in the mind of the pupil different ideas of life and different principles. This evil should be eradicated from our country, as it is this worm that is eating into the heart of the country, which should be removed. A child should not think that because he belongs to a different religion he is different from the other child, I think religion should be the personal concern of everybody in life, teachers and parents should inculcate it into the hearts of children that the different religions that they belong to should not be made responsible for any difference on communal lines. It is therefore necessary that we should have non-communal systems of education in primary schools. But the question has been raised that the language in different provinces presents a difficulty. I think that this difficulty should be solved by all these

languages of different provinces being taught to the children by separate teachers. If we want to make our country free I think it is very necessary that this should be taken up as soon as possible, and we should urge upon the Provincial Governments that all primary education should be on a non-communal basis.

Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade, in seconding the resolution, said in Marathi: Begum Aizaz Rasul has just now said that primary education should be on a non-communal basis. What I feel in this matter is, that not only should there be no communal basis of education but that children of all castes and creeds should be taught in one school. The seed of these communal differences is sown in childhood, which grows into a tree of a communal strife in India and we have to put down our heads in shame before the whole world. Therefore if primary education is stripped of all communal bias, the friendship and love formed in childhood continues for life. When the Government of India Act was on the anvil, many organisations and associations had urged that there should be joint electorates in the whole of India, yet the monstrosity of a communal award has been thrust on us by the British Government. I support the resolution.

The President, before putting the resolution to the vote, said, It has given me very great joy that a Muslim sister has proposed this resolution. It is that kind of spirit that has always prevailed in our Conferences, and I have no doubt that it will always prevail. I am sure that we should carry it with acclamation.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Clause (d) of the resolution on **Voluntary Service** was then taken up.

"This Conference urges all educated men and women to further the cause of education on the following definite lines,-

(d) To make special efforts to promote adult education individually and through organisations

In moving the clause, **Miss Van Doren** (Nagpur) said, It gives me great pleasure to move this resolution that every member of this Conference should make special efforts to follow up in a practical manner to promote adult education individually and through organisations. It gives me pleasure to move this because this is a point of voluntary service which every woman in this Conference can carry out. There is not one of us who cannot teach one person to read especially if we begin among the students in our own households and in our own parts. During this last year we had a prolonged visit from Dr Frank Loubert of the Philippines, who is, I suppose, acknowledged to be the greatest expert on adult illiteracy anywhere in the world. Many workers have taken to adult education with enthusiasm as a result of his visit and efforts that followed it. I have here with me some of the charts and primers which have been introdu-

ced in the various languages of India. These are in Gujarati, Hindi, Chhattisgarhi, Bengali, Urdu, Tamil and Telugu. These charts are not made on the same lines as the textbooks and the ordinary primers and readers that are used in schools. These charts have been built up on the principles of psychology which pertain to the teaching of the adult illiterate individually with due regard to his inferiority complex, with due regard to speed in making him literate in simple points of the language under consideration. And I should like to say to you that any of you who are interested in these samples of these charts may give your names to Miss Lazarus, and I shall be happy to supply you with copies of the literature that has been produced in the language of your area. In addition to the charts in three or four languages of India, namely Hindi, Urdu, Tamil, and Telugu, there are simple news sheets adapted to the meaning of semi-literates which are also published, and I should be happy to put you in touch with the publishing houses which produce these little newspapers. They are built upon a strictly limited vocabulary and very simple points of speech that are intelligible to the village peasant. I may say to you, a few months ago I visited a depressed class village in the Telugu country, where I found that out of 120 villagers, men, women, and children, 88 were in the process of learning to read. Now I want to put before you two practical requests. (1) Will you be willing to undertake the teaching of one person, to make one person in your compound literate, and then to pass on to teach another and then another? And (2) will you be willing to use all the gifts in your possession in telling very simple stories and songs on the basis of a limited village vocabulary for the benefit of the illiterate people who are working in your area? Further I should be very grateful if you will also communicate this fact to Miss Lazarus or to me. I have received very urgent requisitions from the Adult Education Society, Delhi, that the educated ladies of India would help in the preparation of suitable, simple, interesting literature for the use of the semi-illiterate in each of your language areas. I have therefore very great pleasure in moving this resolution.

Miss Lazarus My only excuse in speaking to you now is to show you the value of the work in this direction. I went to these areas some months ago, and I started with sweepers and jamadars. We had agriculturists, we had sweepers, we had field men and women, I was astonished myself because we were able to go through all these lessons and make them literate in the space of 7 or 8 days. Therefore I am appealing to you from my own practical experience and personal knowledge that this system of charts is a wonderful system, and since all of us women are more practical than men, I should advise you all to try to teach one person in each of your villages and compounds.

Miss Ferozuddin (Punjab) speaking in Urdu said *Madam President* :

has been said that this system is meant for those who are grown up and have had no opportunity of education. This conference should make every effort to make them literate. But one practical difficulty in our way is that when these grown-up women are asked to learn, they say that they have no time. But when you have to do some work, you must understand their psychology and what their necessities are. Work must be undertaken on the basis of utilitarianism, which means what we can do for the greatest good of the greatest number. If you can only ask a woman to learn so much as to read books of her own religion, you will find that you have done the greatest work. I would suggest that, after they have finished their household work, all women should be collected together at a spot and there they should be taught. Just now you have been told that a great educationist from the Philippines came here who had invented a new language with sixteen letters which could help a man to become literate within a short time. After his experiment here, he found that he could not invent a common dialect out of the languages of India. Therefore in this country every village should have a village society where all women should be educated.

Part (d) of the resolution was carried unanimously

At the request of several delegates, the President announced that consideration of the question regarding the amendments to the Constitution of the A. I. W. C., which was to come up in the afternoon, be postponed the next morning to let the delegates think over the matter.

The Conference adjourned to 1 P.M.

FOURTH SITTING-30TH DECEMBER 1937.

1-30 to 5 P.M

The Conference reassembled in the afternoon at 1-30 p.m. with the President, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, in the Chair.

Discussion on the Educational Resolutions was resumed

“Common Language —

This Conference resolves that it is desirable that in order to promote cultural unity and harmony amongst the people of India, Hindustani be made the common language, the script used being either Devanagiri or Persian. With the purpose in view it calls upon

- (a) all Constituencies of the A. I. W. C. to help by starting work in this direction immediately,
- (b) that Hindustani be taught as a compulsory second language in Primary Schools.

Miss Hasan (Punjab East) in proposing the resolution said (in Hindustani) Ours is a great country with many languages and religions. But for the cultural unity of India we should have one common language, so that a man going from Kashmir to Cape Comorin should be able to speak in the national language to his fellow-men. Though there can be translation of scripts, there can be no translation of hearts without a common language. Therefore the constituencies have thought it fit to bring in this resolution. Every constituency should form its own Sub Committee and try to give prominence to this language in that area. And all transactions in the constituency should be conducted in Hindustani. So far they have been conducted in English or in their own language. Therefore my proposal is that every constituency should try to make Hindustani a common language in the schools. Government should make it compulsory in the schools. There is another way of encouraging Hindustani as the language of India, and that is, in schools the children should be given prizes for proficiency in Hindustani. My third suggestion is that the teachers should be transferred from one place to another, and the teacher who knows Hindi should be transferred to places where there is dearth of Hindi-knowing teachers. This will be advantageous to both the teachers and the taught. Besides the teachers, the ordinary people also can work in the propagation of Hindi, as for example, a girl in the Hindi regions should go to non-Hindi regions and spread the Hindi language in that region. There is unlimited scope for work in this direction. People who know Hindi do not have Hindi books provided for them to read. Their complaint is that they do not have sufficient books in the libraries. It is therefore necessary to provide libraries with Hindi books. Besides learning to read Hindi, one should also become a fluent speaker and for this purpose Debating Societies should be established. Another way to spread Hindustani is to invite good speakers to speak in Hindustani and good writers should write articles in the newspapers. The broadcast from Delhi also will prove of great advantage. Similarly gramophones records also will be helpful. My last suggestion is that you should start speaking in Hindi, for as long as we do not begin to speak in Hindi, you will never learn Hindi, for we have acquired the bad habit of always talking in English and not in our mother-tongue. It should be our duty in future to speak in our own language and not in the English language. English is a very good language in itself: but considering the diversity of languages in India, Hindustani should be our common language.

Begum Aizaz Rasul (U. P. Oudh) speaking in Hindustani said I am very glad to be able to speak a few words on this resolution. India is such a big country and its languages are so many that the time has now come when, wherever possible, that the medium of instruction should be Hindi. The medium of speech in the Conferences also should be Hindi. Coming to the question of the script, some people say that Urdu script is the best. But my opinion is that Hindi is the language of Hindustan. Hindustani should be the language which is simple and it is easily intelligible in every part of the country. It should not contain any Persian, Sanskrit, or Arabic words. So long as we are not able to make any sufficient advance, we will have to use either Persian or Devanagiri script, but with the advance and spread of education we may be able to adopt the Roman script.

Miss Sushila Pandit (Baroda) in supporting the proposition said; 'Our previous experience has clearly demonstrated to us that for want of a common language we have to spend twice as much time and energy in learning a language. If we are to advance and hold together as a nation, it is essential to have a common language. The European countries have gone ahead of us because they have had a common language. We must now pledge ourselves to adopt Hindi as the common language of India from now.

Part (a) of the resolution was then put to vote and passed unanimously.

Mrs. Deshpande (C.P. South) opposing part (b) of the proposition in English said: I am really thankful to you for giving me an opportunity of opposing section (b) only of this resolution. Section (b) says that Hindi should be made compulsory in the primary schools. My opposition is only to the word "primary schools" I do not contest the importance of having a common language for India. But I only feel-most sincerely feel-that the primary schools are not the place to begin our propaganda for a common language for India. It will entail a great strain on our little children to learn so much more of a second language when they do not know anything about their mother-tongue even. So may stand is that considering that the primary school children have to concentrate on their mother-tongue, we should not burden them with a second language. We also know that most of the villagers who have had a chance of primary education lapse into illiteracy for their usual means of livelihood have nothing to do with reading or writing in their own mother-tongue even. If in addition to that we add a second language compulsorily, they will neither know how to read their mother-tongue nor how to read Hindi which will be the supposed common language for India.

Mrs. Dravid (Berar) supported the motion in Marathi.

Mrs. Kotiwan (C P. South) and ~~Mrs. Dabre~~ opposed the resolution.

Mrs. Girjabai Agnihotri (C. P.) supporting the resolution in Hindi said: It is said that Hindi should be made compulsory for primary school children. It should be made compulsory for adults.

Begum Hussain Khan (Delhi) speaking in Hindi supported the resolution. She wanted the Urdu script.

Mrs. Vinod moved an amendment to part (b) of the resolution as follows -

"That Hindustani be taught as an optional second language in Primary Schools"

Mrs. Ahmed seconded the amendment and **Mrs. Ahmed Khan** supported the same.

After some discussion part (b) was passed as amended.

At this stage, **The President** said. I would like very much to say on behalf of the Committee, and I am sure of the delegation, how very sorry we are that our Chairwoman **Mrs. Swaminadhan** is still unable to be with us. You all know she has been lying down with fever. We hoped that she would be able to be with us from yesterday, but she got fever again, and we have just received a message of regret from her for absence, and we wish that she would soon be well.

"Obscene Literature, Etc:—

- (a) This Conference lodges its emphatic protest against the publication and circulation of obscene literature, pictures and films throughout India and demands that instances be reported immediately to the authorities concerned who are urged to take drastic action.
- (b) In this connection this Conference proposes that sex education be imparted by suitable teachers."

Mrs. Mayadeo (Maharashtra) moved the resolution in Marathi.

Mrs. J. R. Doctor (Bombay), in seconding the resolution said: We know that there is a very wide publication and circulation of obscene literature and books and films which are not only insulting to our women but also to our men. They create a very wrong impression on the minds of young children. It is very necessary that steps should be taken to put a stop to such literature and give encouragement to better literature. It is not only for the authorities concerned to put a stop to such literature; but women can help by making the

authorities know about it wherever they find the same. I have very great pleasure in seconding this resolution.

Mrs. Jyotsna Mehta (Indore) and Mrs. Indirabai Sathe also supported the resolution in Marathi.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

SOCIAL RESOLUTIONS

"Removal of Legal Disabilities of Women —

This Conference urges upon the various Governments to introduce a Bill making the following additions and alterations in the existing Hindu Law as it affects marriage and divorce—

- (a) That monogamy should be made compulsory.
- (b) That the custody of the child should be given to the mother unless there is just cause for withholding the same
- (c) That the age of marriage should be raised to 16 for girls and 20 for boys.
- (d) That in cases when the girl is legally a minor, the difference in age between husband and wife should not be more than 20 years.
- (e) That there should be suitable provision in the Hindu Law for divorce on the following principles —
 - (i) Desertion.
 - (ii) Lunacy.
 - (iii) Cruelty.
 - (iv) Adultery.
 - (v) Drunkenness.
 - (vi) Leprosy."

Mrs. S. N. Ray in proposing the resolution said. This resolution is one of great importance to us. I would ask you to consider it seriously and pass it unanimously. In the first place Indian women have to-day realised their responsibilities But it is impossible for them to take their proper places in society although they want to do-if they are continually handicapped by obsolete old laws which ought to have been taken out of the Statute Book long ago. We have been trying to educate the social conscience of the nation to a higher degree, but somehow we have not been able yet to impress on Governments and the Legislatures that this matter should be taken up without

further delay Let us hope that our efforts will be crowned with success this time.

The resolution has been read out to you by the Social Section Secretary. I should first like to speak a few words on clause (a), that monogamy should be made compulsory. It is true that in most Hindu homes the problem does not arise in fact but it is theoretically so-as cases of polygamy have arisen. Apart from that it is ridiculous that we should still in these days have polygamy. I am sure that every delegate will lend her support to this portion of the resolution.

Regarding clause (b), namely, the custody of the child, those of you, who are conversant with the Hindu Law, know that one of the most extraordinary provisions in Hindu law, that the guardianship of the child is forced upon the father, and after the father maternal uncle if there are no paternal relations, then the maternal uncle, and lastly upon the mother. The mother who is so fond of and so much responsible for her children has not been allowed to be the guardian of the child. It is one of the greatest anomalies in Hindu Law.

Clause (c), says that the age of marriage should be raised to 16 for girls and 20 for boys. I do not think there is much to discuss in this. It is after all for the good of all of us that both boys and girls should be fully developed mentally and physically before they become parents, and so it is necessary that the age should be raised to 16 and 20.

The last portion, clause (e), is one on which I want to lay a little stress. There should be suitable provision in the Hindu Law for divorce on the following principles viz, desertion, lunacy, cruelty, adultery, drunkenness, and leprosy. To those who wish to abide by our own Smritis, I should like to say—though we have said it often before—that in the Smritis we find that divorce was allowed under these conditions, and it is not true to say that it is absolutely foreign to Hindu Law. But it is not on that, that I want to put forward my arguments here We must be rationalists. We women of to-day, educated women, must not decide as to whether we want divorce or not according to what was done in olden times—there might have been laws in those which were suitable in that age but, they are not suited to modern requirements, and so it is on that ground that it is necessary to-day, and logical too, that we need divorce on these principles and I ask you to vote for it. Of course, I do not want to say, that we should follow the examples of America or of England, that divorce should be a light and easy thing in India. Such an idea is totally foreign to Indian womanhood. It is only when conditions become unhappy that it is absolutely necessary that we want it. It is not in a light and easy way that Indian women would take up a matter of this nature

With these few words I wish to move this resolution before you and I am sure that you will all support it.

Mrs. Sarojini Mehta (C. P. South) seconding the resolution in Hindi said. I want to clear up one or two misconceptions. It is not that the moment that the husband and wife quarrel that we should insist on divorce. Do not labour under any apprehension of that sort. Divorce should not be easy in India. Divorce should be according to law. So you should not be frightened about the word talak, which is given in the translation, which means divorce. I am also in favour of the other parts of the resolution. The mother should take a vow that as long as her daughter does not attain the age of 16, she will not give her in marriage. As regards marriage of young girls with old men, it is a common thing in India, and in one case a girl of 14 was to be married with a man of 50, and when taken to Court was told by the Judge that there was nothing wrong in it. It is therefore necessary to have some law to restrict the marriage of young girls with old men in this country. In other countries women can marry according to their desires and can marry after the demise of their husbands. The words "desertion, etc." do not mean "desertion, etc." on the part of the husband only, all these cases apply to women as well. I therefore second the proposition.

Mrs. Premleela Mehta (Baroda) supporting the resolution in Marathi said. At present even among educated people we find that during the lifetime of the first wife, the husband marries a second, and women have to undergo many difficulties. The law should be so framed as to relieve women of the misery of their lives to which they are sometimes subjected.

Mrs. Bhalchandra (Berar) speaking in Hindi, wished to move an amendment to part (d) regarding age of marriage. She pleaded for a difference of 15 years instead of 20 years, as in the case of grown-up girls, 20 years would be very harsh.

Mrs. Deshpande in supporting the amendment said. Mrs. Bhalchandra just now proposed an amendment to the resolution before you. She suggested that the difference that we should allow should be only 15 years instead of 20. I rise to support her. I have even mooted the demand for the ten-year difference instead of 15, so that it seems hardly necessary to support Mrs. Bhalchandra. I would just like to point out that we are making a law for those who are inclined to offend when we lay down that it should not be more than 15 years. It does not mean that we should all get married only if the difference is 15. Certainly we are welcome to marry even if the difference is less than 15, but it should not exceed 15. Please do not try to be over-cautious. Therefore I beg you to vote for fifteen instead of twenty years' difference.

Mrs. Chandavarkar (C. P. South) supporting part (e) said in Marathi. I stand particularly to support that part of the resolution which speaks of divorce. Divorce will relieve many of our unhappy sisters, and I feel that a programme should be drawn up in every part of the country to bring to the notice of the Conference such cases so as to strengthen our hands for the law.

Miss Ferozuddin (Punjab) further spoke in Hindi in support of part (e) regarding divorce. She said, Madam President, I as a Muslim woman stand to support this resolution because of the love that I bear towards you. Your pleasure is mine and my pleasure is yours, your sorrow is mine and my sorrow is yours. There is no wonder that this question of divorce has met with criticism in the newspapers by Hindu brothers. But I challenge them to show me any dictates of religion which give them greater right than women. Can you show us any authority where it has been laid down that you can treat in the manner you are treating them! Even that great Law giver Manu has said that the moment the husband deserted his wife, the woman can be free to marry again. He has also said that it is your religious duty to worship the woman. With all my vigour I would pray that our sisters should not be made to suffer unnecessarily. Because I am a Muslim woman you should not ask me why I should interfere with the Hindu Law. I would request all the delegates present to bear in mind that if women are kept in bondage, not only are you doing a great disservice to the womanhood of your land but also to your religion.

Miss Thapar (Punjab) opposing the resolution said -Our object should be not to divorce our husbands, but to see how we can improve our husbands. Can anybody point out any country which has improved the lot either of the husband or of the wife by means of a divorce law? I am totally against making any laws in regard to divorce. Are we to throw all our marriage vows to the winds if such laws are passed? Surely not.

Mrs Chinmulgand (Karnatak) opposing the resolution in Marathi said --

If you agree to divorce, your condition will get worse rather than improve. What shall we say about the character of a woman if she remains with her husband as long as he is earning his money and leaves him when he becomes a lunatic? We should consider twice before marriage, when once we marry we should never divorce.

Mrs. Anasuyabai Kale opposed the clause on divorce.

Mrs J. R. Doctor There has been one amendment to section (d), that is, the difference in age should be 15 years instead of 20, It was proposed by Mrs Balchandra and supported by Mrs. Deshpande. There is a further amendment by Begum Hamid Ali who will speak on it,

Begum Hamid Ali: I want to propose an amendment to this resolution. We are a free nation, at least a freedom-loving nation, and as such I do not think that we need accept anything under compulsion. It is true that there is great wrong done when small girls are married to old men. But simply making it compulsory will not do away with this evil. We have to do a great deal of propaganda. It would be much better for the community and much better for the womanhood on the whole to leave the matter to the good sense of the parents when they develop a sense of responsibility. Therefore I propose an amended resolution by deleting section (d) in it.

Mrs. S. N. Ray accepted the deletion of clause (d).

The President As the proposer has accepted the deletion of clause (d), the question of the other amendments does not arise.

With the permission of the Chair, **Mrs. S. N. Ray** said. There has been opposition to clause (e). I think it should be obvious to all that we are not talking about the women who are already happy and normal with their husbands. But they may have to adopt a course rendered necessary by certain circumstances, and they may feel very miserable in life without some such law. We do not want it for everybody, and that should be quite clear. There is a case of a woman who married a man who went out to South Africa four days after she was married and then for four years he did not come back to India and when he came back, he married again and went again to South Africa. Such a thing happens anywhere in the world, and then in that case would you not allow divorce? And we know that Indian women are not going to rush into divorce, it is only for cases that are really necessary that we want law to be made.

Mrs. Vinchukar (Maharashtra) supporting the clause on divorce said in Marathi. It is true the law of divorce will be a weapon in our hands. It will not mean that the moment the law comes into force we will all leave our husbands and go and live alone. It will all depend on the merits of each individual case. There should be a law, but whether you make use of it or not will depend upon the circumstances of the individual case. I want to support the motion.

Mrs. Gangaben Patel (Bombay) opposed clause (e) on divorce.

The resolution with the exception of clause (d) regarding the age of marriage, was carried by majority.

'Traffic in Women and Children -

This Conference is of opinion that Acts for the suppression of traffic in women and children be introduced in all provinces and in the Indian States where they do not exist and to provide for suitable amendments to such Acts in the

provinces where they are in force, to make them stricter and more effective, and urges the Legislatures to introduce such Acts and amendments at an early date, to establish Remand and Rescue homes for women and children, so that the Acts can be effectively enforced "

Mrs S C. Mukerjee in moving the resolution said

In proposing this resolution for the acceptance of this Conference, I have to bring to your notice a few facts to show how important the resolution is. We should have Acts introduced in all our provinces and in the Indian States so that traffic in women and children is effectively checked. In some provinces where some Acts exist, provisions are such that there are many legal loopholes, and unless the necessary amendments are introduced to these Acts, the traffic in women and children will continue in spite of all legislation. We have just congratulated the Government of Mysore state for introducing legislation and enforcing the law relating to the traffic in women and children. It is a great satisfaction that our Indian States are now considering such reforms. I would appeal to our Standing Committee members representing all the constituencies to pass resolutions at their constituency conferences, urging legislators of their provinces and their States to introduce Acts prohibiting immoral traffic and also where such Acts are already in force, I would suggest that our Standing Committee Members in their Constituencies ought to try to improve the existing legislation and try to introduce the necessary amendments wherever necessary to make the Act more stringent. The Act should be passed in all the Provinces and the Indian States to the effect that brothels should not exist and that living by means of prostitution is a crime. Even where there is legislation, I am convinced that a good deal of traffic is found to exist as it is not possible to eradicate this evil only by legislation. We have to create public opinion by means of propaganda and try to remove the causes and educate the poor women. One of the chief causes is certainly economic. Reformist institutions are necessary everywhere for trained women who have been turned out from these brothels and also for the adults to prevent them from being enticed away. This is the only useful way by means of which we can achieve the real object of this resolution. At present all our rescue homes are run by means of private endeavours and in some cases only Government aid is given. Government should provide these homes in all places, especially in places where laws have been introduced or are to be introduced. A few rescue homes are not of much avail. We all know the difficulties of private endeavours in starting homes or schools. Besides some of these homes are in the hands of males for supervision and management. This should not be allowed. We are aware how in some of these homes, marriages are arranged for rescued women on false pretext and these women again fall victims at the hands of the procurers. Therefore we want women to offer their services for vigilance work and serve as Probation Officers and social workers with full powers for investigating cases. It is only when women come forward to do this work, the

poor and the unfortunate sisters can be educated so that they can be reformed and also have our social laws amended and improved so that we may remove one of the causes of this evil. It is then alone that we can hope to eradicate this evil to some extent. In the Strait Settlements and Singapore I visited recently. I was struck by the amount of money spent by the Government there to help these poor victims. The All India Women's Conference is for the suppression of traffic in Women and Children and the Members of the Standing Committee should try their best to do everything towards this reform. You will be glad to hear that Dr. Mrs. Muthulakshmi Reddy has agreed to serve on the Sub-Committee on Traffic in Women and Children of the A. I. W. C. She has done splendid work on this behalf. I appeal to all other Members of the Standing Committee to offer help in this cause. Next year we hope we will be successful in doing some very good work, and I hope more workers will come forward to help. With these words I move the resolution for your acceptance.

Miss Sushila Pandit seconded the resolution in Hindi. She said: We should educate our sisters who are being misled. We should all know what kind of misfortune or misery they have to undergo. We are like the frog in the well and we cannot look around and see what is happening to our sisters in the country. We want to show to the world that the Indian woman can protect herself. I say with regret that in the Baroda constituency, a resolution was sent in connection with self-defence. But that resolution has not found a place in the agenda. I still hope that whenever we talk about traffic in women and children we should also insist on the necessity of self defence for the women. The message of self-defence should not be confined to the two thousand women collected here, but it should spread to women all over the country.

Miss Shepherd (Central Organiser in India of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene) was asked to speak on the resolution. After thanking the President for the opportunity given to her as a visitor to speak on the above resolution, she said.—

"I look forward to the future of this very work. I want to appeal to the younger women here to take more interest in this problem though this is a subject which is not very popular. This is a subject which ought to be tackled from an educational point of view. I would therefore appeal to everyone present here, when they get back to their localities to take purity into their thinking and to see gradually in their own families and through family influence set up a high standard between men and women and then gradually the evil will die of itself.

Secondly, legislation which is necessary, is already secured in 8 provinces and 4 Indian States. This legislation aims to protect the women and

children who are needy. One thing which you can do is to educate these people. This must be done in a spirit of fellowship. We have been so grateful for the work done by Mrs. Muthulakshmi Reddy and others in connection with the rescue homes. Anything that our Association has been able to do in this direction is due to the indefatigable work done by ladies like Mrs. Brijlal Nehru and Lady Mitter. We are all getting gradually Indian friends in the provinces and the States to help us.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Educational Resolution. Parts (a), (b) and (c) of the resolution on Voluntary Service were next taken up, which read as follows.—

"This Conference urges all educated men and women to further the cause of education on the following definite lines,—

- (a) To organise well run Nursery Schools for children between the ages of 3 and 6".
- (b) To form the Care Committees to follow up in a practical manner the work of medical inspections and treatment.
- (c) To provide buildings, however simple for Schools."

Mrs. W. H. Theobald (Mysore), in moving clause (a), said.—

In asking you to support the Resolution before the House, I appeal to you as one who has much experience in establishing and running such Schools and who can vouch for their value.

The very fact that so many provinces have tabled this Resolution shows that the question is beginning to take on an added interest and the importance of Nursery and Kindergarten Schools is beginning to be appreciated. The potential value of such schools in laying the foundation of all that is desirable in a child, is immeasurable.

These schools serve a definite purpose and help to bridge the transitory period of a child's life, from the time it is weaned or leaves the Welfare Centre till it joins a regular school. It inculcates sound ideals at a time when it is likely to leave permanent impressions, and helps to lay the foundation of a better nation and better people.

It must not for a moment be thought that Nursery and Kindergarten Schools deprive the child of freedom or infringe on the privileges of the childhood. On the contrary, such schools enter into the spirit of child life and direct the energies into constructive and useful channels in a manner which is both pleasant and

agreeable to the child Properly run, these schools are a source of great happiness to the children where they meet large number of companions and have any amount of fun. The difference between a child attending a Nursery School and the one that does not is, that in one case, the child's playful energies are directed towards a constructive and wholesome purpose and in the other the child is allowed to play about the streets imbibing bad habits and exposed to many dangers.

The happiness that pervades in a properly run Nursery School must be seen to be believed. Similarly the value and usefulness of these Schools can only be realised by visiting them and seeing the children at work and play, where they are taught cleanliness, regular habits, good manners and morals. Patriotism and loyalty is inculcated, and kindness to each other, tolerance and respect for elders, is preached and practised, in short all the 101 things that go to make a good and lovable child.

In the form of controlled play and song, a strong character is developed in the child, and discipline and order play an important role Simple Rules of Safety First and health are taught and scope given for physical and mental development Children are encouraged in Hand-work of every description and opportunities offered to give expressions to originality of ideas and inventive urges Gradually and imperceptibly the rudiments of culture and education are inculcated to enable the children to cope with life before them when they enter a regular School.

There is no limit to the many valuable and useful benefits to be derived from Nursery and Kindergarten Schools They help to make children natural and self reliant, and overcome that inferiority complex so noticeable in Indian children. There is no question that Nursery Schools are a national asset and no effort should be spared to spread them throughout India Every encouragement must be given for starting these Schools and ample provisions made in the Educational Budgets for the purpose

In starting these Nursery Schools, I am strongly opposed to adopting Western methods entirely or running them on stereotyped lines. Western principles of child education can be modified and adapted to suit Indian conditions, and I can vauch for the combination proving eminently successful

Of course, it would be useless to start Nursery Schools and Kinder-gartens unless specially trained Teachers are to be had for staffing them Teachers for these Schools must be specially selected and trained for the work

I am conducting several Nursery Schools in Mysore City with a total strength of nearly 500 children and have helped to establish and Staff many

others in and out of the State, and I can confidently assert that high educational qualifications is not the only thing that counts in making a good Nursery School Teacher, nor is it very essential. It is of prime importance to take the greatest care in selecting suitable and correct type of candidates, for training as Nursery School Teachers; and only those with mother instincts strongly developed in them and who have a marked aptitude for handling children, should be chosen.

The value of educational qualifications cannot be under-estimated, as it, no doubt helps a lot and if it is combined with the other qualities, it would go to make the ideal Teacher. But I have found that some of my best Teachers are those possessing the minimum of educational qualifications. In view of this fact, no educational bar of a high standard should be imposed which is likely to disqualify an otherwise ideal and efficient Teacher.

In European Training College for Teachers, all students taking their Normal Training are not selected to train in the Froebel methods of teaching children. It is only those who are able to manage children and show an aptitude for the work, who are permitted to join the Froebel Classes.

This proves that every Trained Teacher is not necessarily suitable for taking up work in Nursery and Kindergarten Schools, unless she has a flair for handling children and has been especially trained for the purpose. My experience also bears this out, and the saying "Teachers are born and not-made" has an added significance in the case of the Nursery School Teachers.

I have in the last few years trained many Teachers in the art of handling and teaching children, and most of them are employed in the Nursery Schools conducted by me and elsewhere and in every case, they have given a good account of themselves. The reason for it and which should be taken notice of in establishing a Nursery School Teachers Training Centre is that in selecting candidates for training, I set a certain standard of educational qualification, not high, but was very careful to watch the reactions of each individual in handling children and it was only after I was satisfied that they possessed special talents and love for the work, that they were finally selected for training.

And I am glad to say that the precautions taken and methods employed have fully justified themselves and all the Teachers some possessing high educational qualifications and others the minimum, have all turned out admirable Nursery School and Kindergarten Teachers.

It is for this reason I stress the importance of making a careful selection of pupils training for Nursery School Teachers work, and I trust the

various Governments in responding to the necessity for having a training Centre for Nursery School Teachers, will pay special attention to this aspect of the question and take advantage of the experience already gained.

I believe the necessity for having Nursery Schools in larger numbers, in Cities and rural areas, has been fully proved; as well as the necessity for having a Teachers Training Centre for the particular kind of work. And I call upon you to support the Resolution tabled whole-heartedly and unanimously, and by the force of our opinion, urge your Governments and Educational authorities to take early steps to meet these requirements.

Miss Mathews (Travancore), in seconding clause (a) said; Looking back upon our work we find a remarkable improvement in the women, but the best results are yet to be achieved with the children. We find it extremely difficult to change the bad habits of women and to get them adopt a different outlook in life, but the children are more responsive and they are teachable up to 12 years. We have realised that we ought to have begun our work with the babies even. It is not enough to get hold of them and give them food, and daily bath, but in the training of their character and the development of good habits we have to get hold of them in our hands. These poor women do not know how to train the children and it is not enough to instruct them because they may not get hold of all our ideas. We have to get hold of the children and train them in public life. So it is absolutely necessary to have nursery schools in these villages. And we need well-trained teachers to look after these children to form good habits. The years between 3 and 6 are the most impressionable years and we want good habits formed before they enter the primary schools. We are all agreed that we need nursery schools, but where are we to get the teachers from? India is not rich enough to have well-trained teachers to run schools. Our hope is with the voluntary workers. I am sure in India we have enough educated women to-day for work in all the villages. So far we have been looking upon life in terms of education. Now we have to look upon life in terms of giving, so that we may get that spirit of service and I hope that spirit of service will be inculcated into the children in all the schools and all educational departments. And then there is the ideal of service to educational institutions on a two years voluntary service besides villages. Depending upon voluntary service, we are faced with one difficulty, we cannot get voluntary workers to come regularly day after day for months. Not being paid workers, they feel they can neglect one or two days' work or even months. And so we want the voluntary workers to feel equally responsible, as responsible as paid workers. Then only our work will develop. With these few words I have great pleasure in proposing the motion.

The resolution was carried unanimously

Dr. Mrs. Sukthanker, in moving parts (b) and (c) said: The resolution that I am moving' was discussed this morning when we were talking on the resolution of medical inspection. Our President wanted to know whether the medical inspection was followed up or not, and many of the answers were that it is not followed up and we do not get the co-operation that we do want for this medical inspection and treatment to be successful. Now what is the remedy for it? The remedy is provided in this resolution. It is that we should have Care Committees. These Care Committees are supposed to go with the information which they will get from the medical inspectors through the various homes of the children and to impress upon the parents the importance of proper treatment. This is the sort of work that we women can take up, and we can form our own Care Committees in any constituency and follow up the work of medical inspection and so help this very important section of work. In Bombay I understand that they have already formed a Care Committee and they have started work. All educated men and women who want to further the cause of education can do it in various ways. And this is one of the ways. Very often we will find that there are some philanthropic people who would like to carry into practice the ideal of service. Now this is a way suggested to them that they can exercise their philanthropy, however simple; they would be very acceptable to further the cause of education.

Mrs. Billimoria in seconding said I just want to add a word to what Dr. Mrs. Sukthanker has already told you. In Bombay we formed a small Sub-Committee to study the question. We got all the literature from Europe and America and then we approached the Bombay Municipality to let us have one of the poorest schools, so that we may start Care Committee work there. We are working in collaboration with the Medical Inspector. What we want is not merely medical inspection and treatment, but to find out exactly the family history of the children, and later on, even after they have left school, we shall follow them up and see whether we can find some sort of employment for them. There are various other ways in which we want to help, and perhaps next year we might be able to tell you more.

Mrs. Dravid supported the resolution

Parts (b) and (c) were carried unanimously.

The conference adjourned to the next day.

FIFTH SITTING-31st December 1937.

9 A. M. to 12 Noon.

The fifth sitting of the conference commenced at 9 a. m. with Rajkumari Amrit Kaur in the Chair

of the people of Hindustan, to serve in promoting their moral, economic, and social, educational and political advancement with particular reference to women and children.

The word added here is "political" advancement with particular reference to women and children. It seems that some of us feel that whenever we say politics, we immediately jump to party politics, or Congress. I do not mean to convey any such impression by the addition of the word "political". I do want to maintain this platform for women of India of all shades of opinion and creeds. I however wish to point out that there is a politics which is called constructive politics, and as women are holding responsible posts in different local bodies, municipalities, and as Ministers of Cabinet, it is essential that women who gather here should stand and work for awakening the consciousness of women amongst the masses and that is what I want to convey by political advancement. It may be for the Muslim League, it may be for the State Municipality, it may be for the State Local Board, it may be for the Congress, it may be for the Liberal Federation, but we are not unconscious that constructive political training, is absolutely necessary for women in India to-day. We want to widen the sphere of the conference. The Conference has been working for the last few years only for educational reform; then it started work for social reform, and now if we include, especially now that women hold responsible posts in Government, political reform in our Constitution, I think we should certainly be taking the Conference a step further. I appeal to you all to pass this unanimously.

Miss P. Thapar (Punjab Central) in seconding Miss Gokhale's amendment, said I wish to say that there is very little difference between the amendment proposed by Miss Naidu and that proposed by Miss Gokhale. When we are out to promote the moral, economic, social and educational welfare of women, can we do it without entering into politics? If we have been able to speak with one voice in matters—moral, economic, social and educational, can we not in the same way support the political advancement with one voice? We will support any party which supports the advancement of our country, be it even the British Government.

Miss Leilamani Naidu I oppose Miss Gokhale's amendment. I do not understand how we can take part in politics without taking part in party politics. There should have been some definite proposals, and then we would have been able to vote for it or vote against it and we would have been able to understand it better. But as it is, the words are very vague, I think they carry no impression. And I would like to ask those who propose these things which activities leading to the national welfare, to the welfare of the women and children you could point out that the Conference has left out up till now. We have

been advocating Prohibition, a jail reform, franchise, cottage industries, rural uplift, and every other thing. If there is no practical work done in the matter it is not the fault of the Constitution of the Conference, but it is the fault of the workers themselves. And mere change of words in the Constitution on the paper will not wield a magic wand and make the Conference country-wide, make its influence spread all over the country. Before talking of mass contact, I think we need to change our mentality quite a lot. For when we come to the Conference—I admit I cannot exclude myself—every one of us wishes to have some special favour done to her, some special arrangement made for us, and yet we say that we are going to rush into the country and bring about rural uplift and mass contact. I think it is a mockery of terms. And the present constitution does not prevent us from doing any constructive work. The Conference can only make suggestions. It cannot by itself go to work among the masses, and if we do not take it up, I think it is the fault of ourselves and not of the constitution, and we should not make the changes merely in order to satisfy certain critics or to make a show of doing work while there are no practical suggestions to widen the scope. The Conference, as it is, has its doors wide open to all those who wish to work in any sphere of national welfare or in the welfare of women and children. Even the Indian National Congress took nearly half a century to come into contact with the masses. Our institution is only a child of twelve years, and I am sure that after some time and much earlier than any other institution it will come into contact with the masses, and mere change of words is not going to provide it. There must be a change of the policy among ourselves. Year after year we have been passing constructive resolutions, and we should start constructive work on the lines indicated by those resolutions, and mere change of words is not going to help us in any way and bring ourselves into contact with the masses. With these few words I oppose Miss Gokhale's amendment.

Mrs. Sarala Devi (Orissa): I want to support Miss Naidu's original amendment. I am of opinion as a member of the Provincial Congress Committee and as a member of the Legislative Assembly of my province, that before this Conference engages itself in any matter relating to politics, the main aim of the constitution of the All India Women's Conference is to ameliorate the condition of Indian women and children, and that must be the main object of the Conference. The women of India are not sufficiently educated and have not qualified themselves up to the mark so as to be able to engage themselves in any party politics. Most women are illiterates and ignorant and do not realise the very fundamentals of good citizenship. Therefore, this is not the proper time to bring any change in the constitution so far as the main object and aim of the Conference is concerned. I again emphatically express my views on this matter that we must abide by the main purpose of the Constitution of the A. I. W. C. At the same time I would say that anybody, who likes to enter into party politics, has the right to do so according to her own

consent, the political field is quite wide open to everybody. Women who are interested in political affairs ought to join that field individually and the time has already come when we must be thoroughly concerned with the political affairs irrespective of creed and caste and sex. But the All India Women's Conference and its Constitution are different from a purely political organisation. So when we want to do everything for the betterment of the Indian women and children, first of all we need unity amongst us, and when we want to bring an amendment of the constitution, we must see to it that we have no difference of opinion in our main aims and objects. So I appeal to my sisters to realise the importance of my viewpoint, namely that we must stand together and concentrate on the moral, social, economic and educational advancement of the country.

The President: Another amendment has been received, and as all amendments are to be before the house before voting is taken, I will ask the proposer of this amendment, Mrs. Shardaben Mehta, to move it.

Mrs Sharadaben Mehta (Gujarat) My amendment is very short and I am not going to make a long speech I just want to delete certain words from Miss Naidu's original amendment. I want to amend it thus—

“The A. I. W. C. shall not engage in any party politics as such but the Conference shall be free to lend its support to all national welfare activities.”

We have been doing all this We have taken part in all the educational, national, moral, and political activities. So I do not think this amendment of mine makes any radical change in our policy I would request you to accept my amendment as it removes all difficulties from our constitution. I hope you will all support my amendment.

Mrs Hirlekar in seconding the amendment of Mrs. Sharadaben Mehta said in Marathi The proposed amendment only differs in two words, the words “national activities” in the constitution. There is a tendency now a days among the younger generation of women to become politically-minded and to make this Conference a common platform for all classes of women, young and old, it is necessary that we should include the word “national” in our constitution. I therefore support Mrs. Sharadaben's amendment.

Begum Hamid Ali in putting forward her amendment said You will remember that last night at our informal discussion we came to an understanding and on that understanding we were to accept Miss Naidu's amendment. If, in Miss Naidu's amendment we change the words “the people of India” to “the Indian Nation”, I think that will solve some of the difficulties in our way. The difference between Mrs. Sharadaben Mehta's amendment and my amendment

is quite obvious. Although both amendments mean that we shall be working for the nation, Mrs Mehta's amendment needs a little change, because it does not very well define what is meant to be conveyed, because when we are discussing the question of national welfare, we shall not know where politics comes in, and when we are discussing the political affairs, then party politics is bound to come into the discussion. Therefore, I ask you to vote for my amendment, namely, the substitution of the words "Indian nation" for the words 'people of India' "

Miss Z. Lazarus in seconding Begum Hamid Ali's amendment said I think you are all familiar with Miss Naidu's amendment. I agree that we should stand united for the progressive welfare of the Indian nation. I may say that the States, although very conservative with regard to politics are taking up every constructive reform that we have been urging for from the beginning for the last twelve years. We have already compulsory free and primary education in Cochin. In Travancore, due to the farseeing statesmanship of Her Highness the Maharani Saheb, the State has taken the lead in India in temple entry. Only last month in Travancore the first woman in the whole of India was appointed to the judiciary. Can you have anything more progressive than that? Mysore has taken up the bill—and passed it unanimously—for the suppression of traffic in women and children. In the matter of maternity welfare also Hyderabad has done the same. Then Hyderabad, with Muslim ruler has passed the Hindu Widow Remarriage Bill. It has also studied the question of Swadeshi not only theoretically but practically, and you will see all our Hyderabad delegates wear articles made in Hyderabad. Travancore and Gwalior have also taken up this question. I ask you which burning questions have the Indian States and other places like Calcutta and other big Indian Provinces not taken up under our present Constitution. From the very beginning we have all been united together for the welfare of the Indian nation. Therefore, I ask the delegates to consider the question carefully and pass Begum Hamid Ali's amendment and stand united for the progressive welfare of the Indian nation.

Mrs. Jyotsna Mehta in supporting Begum Hamid Ali's amendment, said: If Miss Gokhale's amendment is accepted, the States people will either, for certain obvious reasons go out of their States or leave the Conference. Under the present constitution there is nothing to prevent the younger generation from taking part in the Conference, which it has been doing in the field of education, moral uplift, and economic advancement of the country.

Miss Ferozuddin My first question is: what are Governments for but for the welfare of the country. I do not quite understand what useful purpose will be served by bringing in the word "politics" into our Constitution, and creat-

ing cleavages in the Conference When we can do everything without the word "politics" in the Constitution, why should we have this word in our constitution? In the name of unity among the women of India, I appeal to you not only not to bring in the communal question but also questions that are likely to create apprehensions among the sisters and delegates. The Conference is only one platform in the whole of India where people of all classes and all political views of all creeds and colours come and express their views. When we can from the platform of the Conference present a united front for India, there is no necessity for bringing in this politics and exclude such persons as are Government servants or States people who for certain reasons cannot take part in a political body. Those who want to join the Congress have the Congress platform open for them Those who have sympathy with the Muslim League can go to the Muslim League platform. But if you go to the villages you will find that the real question before them is how to get a full meal and not who your minister is or what the politics of the Congress is, or that of the Hindu Maha-Sabha, or of the Muslim League. We must be guided by the views of the average Indian woman and not by those of a particular class of individuals. You have just sent a message of peace and goodwill and sympathy to Europe You stand for non-violence Is it not violence to crush individual liberty in this Conference? Is that non-violence to be used to crush the freedom of individuals in this Conference and conduct business by rushing things and sweeping matters which have to be well understood? We quite well understand what is meant by politics. We are not afraid of Government, being Government servants

Mrs Shinnodevi (Punjab Central), in supporting Miss Gokhale's amendment, said in Hindi, I do not understand why the word "politics" has frightened some of us. In seven provinces out of the eleven, we have acquired the reigns of Government, and in the other four I am sure within five years we shall be able to get the Government in our hands. In an age when our women are becoming Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Speakers and Parliamentary Secretaries, how can we keep away from politics? So far as Government servants are concerned, when the Government is in our hands, they need not be afraid of joining an organisation like ours if it chooses to take part in constructive political work.

Begum Aizaz Rasul, I should just like to say that I was elected to the Council on an independent ticket. I do not belong to any party in the Legislature and as such I think that there are many amongst you who have been elected on certain tickets to the Assemblies and Councils, and there are many amongst you here who hold different views as to the present political situation in India. But what I want to say to you is that I have been attending this Conference for the last ten years—I first attended it in Delhi in 1927, and since then I have been attending year after year and the one thing that has struck me more than anything else is the continued harmony that has prevailed amongst all of us But if

we are going to bring the question of politics or party politics for that matter into our constitution, I am afraid that there is going to be controversy and there is going to be disunity amongst the ranks of our Indian sisters. I should therefore like to say that Miss Naidu's proposition, as amended by Begum Hamid Ali, stands for greater scope in widening our activities, at the same time not involving us in party politics. If we begin to speak on political lines, it will mean party politics. We have got several platforms outside where we can go and express our views when we have got any views on politics. But I do not think that it is fair that we should be asked to come here to the Women's Conference with a sort of a political propaganda. I should therefore like to say that this Women's Conference should remain a Women's Conference and not become a political conference.

Miss Masani I have great pleasure in supporting Miss Gskhale's amendment. When we pass resolution about international politics, it is strange that we cannot pass a single resolution about our own political situation. That seems to be a most anomalous situation. We passed resolutions, not merely on social and educational matters; we fought for votes, we got votes, we sent our representatives to the Indian Franchise Committee and presented a united front in pressing our case. Now if this is not mixing in politics, what else is it? Moreover, just as it is not party politics that we got the vote and exercised it according to our individual discretion, in the same way political discussions in this meeting need not necessarily commit any of the individual members to any one party line. All that we want is that a great Women's Organization should pass resolutions on all subjects and, should not leave out one of the most important aspects of our national life. Now the greatest objection that has been raised to the inclusion of the word 'political' is that we shall thus destroy the unity that prevails in this Conference. I should like to tell you that a unity which is artificially bought is worth very little. If we merely discuss non-political subjects and are united so far as Educational and Social subjects are concerned, the unity is not worth very much. Unity is only worth while when discussing controversial questions we still remain united in our own ways, that is to say, we may or may not support any one individual view. But a mere discussion of the political subjects that shake our country to-day need not necessarily have to break up a Conference which has gone together for so many years. Then there is the subject about the Indian States. I am not quite certain what their objection is, apart from the one I have already mentioned, namely that the intrusion of politics would destroy the unity of the Conference. If the British Indian constituencies can hold together when political discussions are held, the Indian States Constituencies should also hold together when political discussions are held. If the Indian States Governments do not interfere with the rights of their subjects to discuss politics, then I do not see why the Indian States constituencies should have any objection to discussing politics.

in this Conference I would ask you to support Miss Gokhale's amendment which does not make our activities lopsided, but which makes our activities many-sided because we embrace in addition to all kinds of advancement, political education also.

Mrs. S. N. Ray. I want to support Begum Hamid Ali's amendment. In doing so, I should like to remind you of what Mrs Sarojini Naidu said on the opening day in summing up our ideal. If my memory serves me right, she said that the watchword of this organization should be Let the spirit of unity prevail, so that the greatest common measure of agreement on ideals will be the basis on which the most progressive and the less progressive will all unite in common service. I think it is absolutely necessary that we abide by this motto. Since this Conference was started twelve years ago, we have been united on all questions, not artificially united, but really united on every question that affected women and our nation at large, I may even say, on all the nation building activities. But we have not gone into the throes of the political field and there is no necessity for this Conference as such to do so. We do not want a special Women's Conference for such a thing. Surely there is the Congress for it, and Congress gives equal opportunities to men and women, there is the Muslim League and there are many other associations of that kind. Women in India have never been aggressive feminists in a manner that we want a political women's association of our own. We only want a women's association, so long as it is necessary for women to be able to achieve moral, social economic and educational advancement. And it is really absolutely essential that for those women who cannot to-day take their proper station in life, who to day have not yet learnt how to take up the civic duties, we keep this Women's Conference open, so that all women can join it, that it can be really representative, as we claim to be, of the womanhood of India.

Mrs. Deshpande I should like to make it clear at the outset that I do not want to take sides but just want some points to be elucidated. You all remember that we women have played a splendid part in securing our present political rights, three of our representatives were sent to give evidence before the Joint Parliamentary Committee, and we all, those who attended the opening session of this conference, know what tremendous tributes were paid to Rajkumari Amrit Kaur and her colleagues. I simply want to know whether that was not politics, whether their mission did or did not concern party politics. Somebody said just now that those who support Miss Naidu's original proposition seem to be afraid of the word 'politics'. Is it mere shrewdness, or some kind of subterfuge, that they want to exclude this word? I have heard also all that was said about government servants. I am a government servant. I am certain that those government servants who find it very inconvenient to sit in this Conference will be certainly going out of that quite against their will.

Mrs. G. R. Billimoria I wish to support Begum Hamid Ali's amendment. It is really a pity, I think, that the opposition has had recourse to a very cheap way of sneering at us. We have been told that we are afraid of this or that. If we had been afraid of anything, we should not have been in this Conference for so many years, and I shall give two concrete instances of how we were not afraid of the Congress. As soon as Mahatma Gandhi took up rural uplift work, we ourselves immediately took it up. When the Congress Government took up the question of primary education, we have taken up that question and we are sending our representatives to Wardha. We are co-operating with the the Congress, and it is not for those who have recently joined the Conference to tell us that we have not been doing any work at all in that direction. Then I would only like to ask one or two pertinent questions. We are told that there is not much difference between Miss Gokhale's amendment and Begum Hamid Ali's amendment. Miss Gokhale's was political advancement for women. Some of us might think that if to-morrow civil disobedience movement is started it might not come under the word "political". If so, I would like to know that if we want to include the word political in our constitution we are going to join the civil disobedience movement.

Rani Lakshimbai Rajwade, in supporting Miss Gokhale's amendment said, It is said that if we are to amend the constitution so as to include the discussion of political subjects in this Conference, then the states will have to secede from the Conference. I do not think so. I do not understand why they should think so because the time is shortly coming when Federation is coming on, with the Indian States and the British Indian provinces coming into one common ground on which to work. The time is soon coming when we people of the States will have to make a similar fight with our own rulers as the men and women of British India are at present doing. And unless people are prepared to accept discussions on political subjects, the younger generation is not going to work with us, and also when 80 to 90 per cent, of the women who have the right of franchise have voted at the last General Election, I do not see how we who call ourselves the premier Women's Organization in the country can keep out of discussions on political subjects.

Mrs Ahmed (North C P) said in Urdu, I am seconding Begum Hamid Ali's amendment. Our work mainly concerns women, and if we can avoid the word 'political' we had better do it. I hope you will all support this amendment.

Mrs Kotiwan and Dr. Mrs Sukthankar supported Miss Gokhale's amendment in Marathi.

Mrs Ali Ahmed (Assam) said in Urdu. The organization of the Women's Conference has not yet reached a stage when it can well afford to enter into matters political. Therefore it is not advisable that the Conference should extend its activities to fields beyond its scope. Politics is likely to

create cleavage among women just as it has created disunity among men. We are not afraid of politics, but anything that is likely to break up the unity among women should be avoided as far as possible.

Miss Mathew (Travancore) in supporting Begum Hamid Ali's amendment said: Representing my own state and all the other States in India, we want to say that we are not afraid of politics. Individuals have their own opinions and we do take part and side with one party or other, But as a conference we should be very careful not to enter into politics. The charm of the All India Women's Conference lies in the very fact that we are united and we are not taking part in politics. I am sure the Conference if divided, will lose its very charm. Without the word "politics" in our constitution, we have been doing all we wanted and have remained in unity. Then why should we add that and divide ourselves? So I strongly support Begum Hamid Ali's amendment.

Mrs. Dravid said in Marathi. I am supporting Miss Gokhale's amendment to the aims and objects of the A. I. W. C. It has been suggested in some of the speeches that if the word 'political' is included, Government servants would have to leave the Conference. I myself am a Government servant and nothing can prevent us from discussing constructive politics. I therefore request my sister Government servants to support Miss Gokhale's amendment.

Dr. Mrs. K. Tarabai supported Begum Hamid Ali's amendment

Mrs Kochukutti Amma (Cochin) We the women of the Indian States are not afraid of the word "politics." But owing to certain constitutional reasons, we will not be allowed to be members of this Conference if the word "political" is included in the programme of the Conference. Some of you might say that it does not matter if the Indian States leave this Conference and that it may not affect the progress or the programme of the Conference. But you must remember that this is the only body in which we the women of the Indian States can come together and exchange views with our sisters of British India. So I request you to consider our case and to allow us to have some part in this Conference. Secondly, if the Indian States leave this Conference, it means that the Conference will have to change its name and will have to narrow down its name to that of the women of British India and not the All India Women's Conference. I therefore support the amendment of Begum Hamid Ali and oppose Miss Gokhale's amendment.

Mrs. Vinod (Bombay), supported Miss Gokhale's amendment in Marathi.

Mrs. Subbarao (Hyderabad Dn.): I wish to support Begum Hamid Ali's resolution. The purpose of changing Article II of the Constitution is to widen

the scope and work of this Conference Surely the amendment of Begum Hamid Ali covers all that is necessary for us to promote and widen the sphere of work, and I cannot understand what objection there is to passing Begum Hamid Ali's amendment I think the word 'political' need not be the cause to hinder or put a stop to the work that is going on among our ladies What we need most now is more sincere and practical work than wasting time in these discussions

Mrs Lakshamma (Mysore). I am a delegate from one of the Indian States We are not afraid of the word 'politics' Still we cannot be members of the A. I. W. C. if the word 'politics' is introduced into the constitution And it is a pity seeing that we have done so much good work in our own constituencies that we should secede from this Conference simply because this one word is going to be introduced I therefore urge that the word 'politics' should be deleted from the amendment I strongly support Begum Hamid Ali's amendment.

Mrs Gangaben Patel (Bombay) supported Miss Gokhale's amendment

Mrs Majumdar (Calcutta) I support the proposition of Miss Naidu as amended by Begum Hamid Ali Really I cannot add anything new to all that has been said by former speakers in favour of this resolution.

I can only say that we should concentrate on the work that we have already undertaken before we widen our activities I support the amendment of Begum Hamid Ali.

Mrs Mulay (Bihar) supported Begum Hamid Ali's amendment.

Mrs Gyankumari Heda, (Hyderabad Dn.), Mrs Durgabai Majleker (C P South) and Mrs Balchandra supported Miss Gokhale's amendment

The President Sister delegates, the debate on this resolution is over, and I will now first of all read to you the original proposition put forward by Miss Naidu —

"The All India Women's Conference shall not engage in any party politics, but shall stand united for the progressive welfare of the people of India, to serve in promoting their moral, economic, social and educational advancement with particular reference to women and children, shall be its main endeavour"

The first amendment to this from Miss Gokhale reads as follows —

"The All India Women's Conference shall not engage in any party politics but shall stand united for the national welfare of the people of Hindustan, to serve in promoting their moral, economic, social, educational, and political advancement with particular reference to women and children."

The second amendment of Mrs Shardaben Mehta is as follows:-

The A. I. W. C. shall not engage in party politics as such, but the Conference shall be free to lend its support to all national welfare activities

The third amendment of Begum Hamid Ali reads as follows:-

The All India Women's Conference shall not engage in any party politics but shall stand united for the progressive welfare of the Indian nation, to serve in promoting their moral, economic, social and educational advancement with particular reference to women and children, shall be its main endeavour "

Miss Naidu, mover of the original proposition wholeheartedly accepted the amendment put forward by Begum Hamid Ali

Begum Hamid Ali, Before votes are taken, I just want to explain that there is really very little difference between the sense of Miss Gokhale's amendment and mine. What Miss Gokhale means by the word "political" is really covered by my words "of the Indian nation. She said that we shall not take part in party politics, but we shall add the word 'political' under other activities. Miss Gokhale explained that what she meant by 'political' was really civics and so on so that we should learn how to go in for election and various things like that. Another lady made the criticism that we were afraid of some word or the other, and that when we went in and asked for franchise, we were doing political work. That in itself is a strong argument for having our constitution as it stands, because it shows perfectly well that we are not at present at all prevented from doing such political work as is not covered by party politics. We can do civic political work, social and economic political work even under our present constitution. That is what Miss Gokhale meant when she said that she would not have any political work which bordered on party politics. I ask you all to take into consideration this view, that if you do not accept my amendment you will be undoing the work that we all have so carefully done for the last 10 or 11 years.

Miss Gokhale, On a matter of personal explanation, I want to make it clear that when I said 'political', I meant constructive political work. I do not think there was any idea of any party politics, or controversial politics at all, but constructive political work for the political advancement of women in India. Please think of it properly before you vote either for or against.

Voting was taken on Begum Hamid Ali's amendment, with the following result,— In favour of the amendment 65, against it 62, and 11 refrained from voting and remained neutral.

The President, after announcing the result, said, Now according to the constitution of the Conference, no change can be made in the Constitution unless

it is carried by a 4/5ths majority. The members to-day taking part number 138. That means that we must have 108 women voting in favour of any change. And as the voting is extremely close there is no chance of either side getting the majority voting. Therefore the change in the constitution falls through because of the lack of the 4/5ths majority.

I want just to add that no further amendments can be proposed now. Every member has a right to refer it back to the Standing Committee and to the future Annual Sessions for such changes as you want to introduce. But this year we are unable to effect any changes because we have not been able to get the requisite majority. It does not mean that the question of change or otherwise falls through, but it is a very good thing to have had this discussion, and to have seen what the feeling on this particular matter is.

The meeting adjourned to 2 p.m.

SIXTH AND FINAL SITTING 31st December 1937

2 to 5 p.m.

The closing session of the Conference commenced at 2 p.m. on the 31st December 1937, with the President in the Chair.

The remaining social resolutions were taken up.

"Cruelty to Animals —

- (a) This Conference expresses its disapproval and disgust at all forms of cruelty to domestic and other animals in India, not only on humane, but also on economic grounds, and because of the psychological effects such cruelty has on the minds and character of children, and recommends that some of the small books and pamphlets published by various Animal Welfare Societies in several vernaculars should be introduced as Readers in Rural Schools and distributed by Rural Reconstruction and Village Uplift Societies.
- (b) This Conference urges Government to take legislative steps to protect milch kine in India, regard being had to the fact that India is mainly an agricultural country, and that sufficient supply of cow's milk is not available."

Mrs. Skrine in moving part (a) of the resolution said . I feel that this Conference is an ideal Assembly to take this matter up, because this is a

matter which is inextricably mixed up with the lot of the peasants and poorer classes, the ignorant, the unenlightened, the very people whom this Conference aims at helping. Again, because, as women, we know, many of us, what it is to suffer and yet have to continue the daily task, and that makes us sympathetic with the dumb suffering of the animal servants of man. Lastly, because as I will point out later on, this is a matter which affects India's children and therefore India's mothers.

It has been suggested in this resolution that we should lose no chance of expressing our dislike of cruelty to animals for three reasons: I have only time to touch on one of these, but the first is on humane grounds. The cruelty to animals is all around us, and almost every day we see the heart-rending results of neglect, starvation and brutality, on the streets and in the country. The twisted tails of draught bullocks, the galled necks and backs and broken knees of tonga and other transport ponies, the awful running sores on donkeys and camels, the wretched fowls carried for long distances head downwards, slowly suffocating in the heat or tightly packed in inadequate baskets sent from place to place by rail. These are the things we see. But what of the things we don't see? And yet we know they are there.

The Calcutta Delegation have, I believe, their own resolution on the hideous practice of phooka on cows, and other conference members have probably heard of it, and of other equal brutalities of animals tied up and slowly clubbed to death with sticks, taking sometime more than an hour to die—of sheep and goats skinned alive, so that the skin may, when sold, be a few inches larger in size, of bullocks tied up and great quantities of water forced down their throats, so that their painfully distended stomachs may give them a swollen fat, flourishing appearance at the neighbouring market. Without touching on religious matters, I think I can say with the documentary evidence in my possession of the practices in the temples—practices so awful, that I could not speak of them here.

But far more effective than prosecutions and police cases would be propaganda and public opinion, which are ours to handle. By expressing our dislike for such cruelty, by doing what we can to prevent it, in our houses, in our villages, or towns, wherever we see suffering animals, we can raise this public opinion—if we put all our enthusiasm into the task.

Next to humane grounds, I have quoted economic grounds. As women, both should appeal to us. We speak of government departments and municipalities wasting public money, but do we ever pause to think of the enormous loss of money, and of the nation's food supply which is due to the neglect of and ill-treatment of domestic animals all over the country? People say that the poor

man, faced with the difficulty of finding food for himself and his family, how can he find food for his beast? We have to teach him that if he finds food for his heart, he will find food for his family. We have to teach him that an over-worked neglected beast is like a bad debt, and a properly cared for animal is an investment.

Thirdly, consider the awful effect that the sight of cruelty has on the minds of children? We aim at the betterment of our country, at the uplifting of the masses of the people, but we let the minds of our children and other people's children, be hardened and soiled by the sight of deliberate cruelty. We fail, sometimes even to check the children, when they, in their childish callousness, practice it themselves. The boy who strikes the puppy with a stick, and laughs to hear it howl,—he may have hit it at first, to drive it away,—but if we let him go on, he will hit it the next time for the pleasure of hearing it howl. The child who sees his elders thrashing unmercifully some frightened or exhausted animal or prodding it with a metal spike, he will use the stick and the spike with relish when he gets the chances, and the feeling mastery which it gives him will encourage him still further. Think of the brutal methods of slaughtering which are sometimes used, of fights between animals, arranged for and betted on, of the hideous practices I have already described,—animal dying in agony—are these nice sights for young eyes to watch? for young ears to listen to?

And what can we do? We can agitate for further legislation. But as some of us know, legislation is a cumbersome and complicated machine, and turns over slowly. In the meantime, I think we might do as much propaganda as we can, especially those of us who are in touch with the people, either through our menfolk, or through Rural Reconstruction Centres, or our professions, or our charitable enterprises. We can keep our eyes open for cases of cruelty and if our advice or reprimand seems ineffective, report them to the Societies concerned. We can perhaps some of us give talks on this subject at rural women's meetings and learn a little of the best way of treating sores and simple ailments, so as to be able to pass on the information. And most of all, we can try and get at the minds of the children, by appealing to the authorities to substitute some little books on animals and their welfare for ordinary readers—little books such as are published mostly by the S P C A. and kindred societies in several vernaculars, and calculated to help the children to understand the important part that domestic animals play in their areas and the debt they owe them. I have only spoken of domestic animals—there is not time for more—but under humane grounds, we must also include the dreadful state of most of the travelling circuses, where animals are kept prisoners in cages, where they can hardly turn round, and we should also think of the export of

jungle animals from India, mostly to America, in horrible circumstances, for zoos, circuses and purposes of vivisection.

One thing more—a minor reason, but one worth dwelling on for a short time: There are more animals to be seen on the roads of India than in almost any other country, so that foreign travellers, or tourists passing through India, see a lot of these animals, often in a bad state, and get a very bad impression.

Believe me, it is not a speech you have been listening to—it is the cry of millions of suffering animals coming to you from Kashmir to Cape Comorin from Beluchistan to Bengal.

Mrs. Chari (Travancore) seconded the resolution

The resolution part (a) was carried unanimously.

Mrs. Vinod in moving part (b) of the resolution said. India is an agricultural country, and so protection of animals is necessary.

Mrs. Inamdar (Berar) seconded the resolution.

Part (b) of the resolution was carried unanimously

"Encouragement of Swadeshi—

(a) It is the firm belief of this Conference that women can help tremendously the economic progress of the country by using and advocating the use of Swadeshi articles.

(b) This Conference appeals that the members of the Standing Committee of the A. I. W. C. should always wear swadeshi clothes.

Part (a) of the resolution was moved from the chair and passed unanimously.

Part (b) of the resolution was not allowed to be moved, as objection was taken on Constitutional grounds. which the President allowed.

"Legislation Enforcing Prohibition—

This Conference whole-heartedly supports the policy of prohibition initiated by seven provinces.

(a) It calls upon its branches and members to render all help they can towards the attainment of this desirable goal.

(b) It appeals to the remaining provinces and all Indian States to follow this lead and bring in the necessary legislation in their areas also.

- (c) It is of opinion that the policy of prohibition should be enforced also in the case of ganja, opium, cocaine, and all other drugs of recognised harmfulness "

Miss Masani in moving the resolution said, The policy of prohibition has been advocated by us for a long time now, and I do not think that I require to speak in its favour any more. There is just one thing I should like to say, and that is, what opposition there would be to-day will dwell on the fact that prohibition might fail and thus have very disastrous results. I know that in the United States, the policy of prohibition has been found to have certain adverse effects, but I believe that the Indian people will take more kindly to a resolution of this kind than the United States people, and therefore I would ask you to support this resolution.

Mrs Gupta (Calcutta) in seconding the resolution said:—

There is not a woman who would not like to banish alcohol for all time from our midst. It is the cause of so much domestic misery, poverty, ruined health and physique. As usual it is the woman who has to bear the burden of this self-indulgence on the part of the man. For it is so hard to face anger and even cruelty. The difficulties in the way of introducing prohibition are great and many. But the undoubted public support there is in India for the total abolition of drink, will enable the Congress Ministries to overcome these difficulties in course of time. The poorer classes and the villages need protection more than any other group of people. Indian villages will have new life and prosperity when drink is abolished. Drink is one of the main causes of poverty of the masses and of the physical degeneracy and moral deterioration of all classes and the poor in particular and its widespread consequences plunge innocent women and children into a morass of untold suffering. I would request this Conference to lend its whole-hearted support to the policy of prohibition launched in seven Congress Ministries and to urge the Governments of other provinces to adopt a similar policy without any further delay, and call upon all women to assist in the spread of this ideal in their respective Constituencies.

Mrs. Gangaben Patel supported the resolution.

The resolution was put to vote, and carried unanimously.

Educational Resolution— Voluntary Service— Clause (e) —

"That Co-operative Societies be formed to raise money for investing in buildings for schools, the interest on the capital thus raised, being paid by the rent which in its turn must be collected by private efforts if not contributed by Government."

Mrs Cornelius (Hyderabad-Deccan) in moving part (c) of the resolution on Voluntary Service said.—At the advice of Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji a Co-operative Society for building Girls' Schools has been started in Hyderabad. This Society raises capital by sale of shares—the capital is then utilised in the construction of a building—and the building is rented to a School for Girls. The rent for this building is paid by the Management from either the subscriptions or Govt. Grant that it receives for the maintenance of the School or from both if one amount is insufficient to pay the rent. The Annual rent so collected by the Co-operative Society is used by that body, in paying interest to the share-holders after reserving a part for annual repairs to the building

In this way a large number of people share the burden of building and running a school and this system should recommend itself to those who though desirous of helping in so worthy a cause, are unable to pay large sums of money as donations and subscriptions.

Mrs. Allen (Hyderabad) in seconding the resolution said: We all know the great need of simple, well-built schools with light and air, which are very necessary for the welfare of the children. And if small co-operative societies could be formed, this could be made so much easier in building more schools and more economically also. I heartily support this resolution.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

"Malnutrition —

- (a) This Conference is of opinion that every person responsible for the education of children should study and understand the principles of dietetics and nourishment and spread knowledge in this direction.
- (b) It also urges that to combat the evil of malnutrition the authorities should make every effort to supply suitable nourishment to such children as need it."

In moving the resolution, Lady Tasker of Hyderabad said Although I was not prepared to move this resolution, in the absence of the mover I am glad to have this opportunity of saying a few words on such an important subject. I need not impress on you the importance of the whole subject of Malnutrition in India, but I would like to put this idea before you, that Malnutrition is not so much due to poverty as to ignorance. Of course, it is obvious that people must have enough food to eat but a wonderfully small amount is needed to nourish and keep in health the human body. If everyone

knew exactly what they ought to eat and in what proportion they ought to eat and what they ought to avoid eating, then the fight against malnutrition would be more than half-won. It is not only the very poor who are under-nourished in India, but the rich and poor alike suffer from a physique that can only be described as mal-nourished. I speak earnestly on this subject owing to recent personal experience. I had always thought that providing plenty of good food and pure food was all that one could do for one's children. In spite of that my own children suffered from various complaints in common with many others, such as bad tonsils, colds, coughs, influenza, etc. The knowledge came to me through a little magazine that tonsils and adenoids, also appendix trouble and catarrh, were all due to the same cause, namely an excess of starchy food with which the system could not deal. In some way the surplus has to be thrown off and these different parts of the body are known avenues for elimination of the poison which arises from surplus. My own small daughter was suffering from catarrh having already had her tonsils and appendix removed. The doctor treated her for six months for catarrh with no result whatever. Following the instructions in the magazines I stopped her bread and potatoes of which she was particularly fond and within 24 hours the catarrh had disappeared. By further experiment we found we could entirely control the trouble of catarrh and now she has no trace of it. Had I known many years ago about this effect of a surplus of starchy food, I am convinced that I could have brought up my children minus colds, catarrh, adenoids, tonsils and appendix troubles. This is only one small instance of what knowledge about diet can achieve and I only quote to impress my point of view that knowledge of food values is a more important contribution towards combating malnutrition than even a large income.

In proposing this resolution I, therefore, urge every person in whose hands lies the responsibility of others especially children to acquaint themselves, from every possible source, with the knowledge of food values.

Mrs. Balchandra (Berar) seconded the resolution

The resolution was carried unanimously

"Hostels—

"This Conference reiterates its demand that sufficient number of recognised Hostels should be established for women students by the authorities concerned and that they should be efficiently supervised by experienced and responsible women as Inspectresses."

Lady Tasker in moving the resolution said —

First of all "women's hostels" is a very wide subject so I will confine myself to two points of view only —

- (a) The importance of having enough hostels for women in towns where they come either to study or to earn their living.

Now that there is a great movement among women towards independence, we, who make ourselves responsible for the welfare of women, should exert every influence in our power to see that this new emancipation does not lead our women and girls into unhappy or unfortunate conditions of living. One way in which we can help is to bestir ourselves about hostel accommodation where women could be safe and happy and have the right kind of background in their new independence.

- (b) In all hostels that already exist-especially for young students-some official inspection and recognition is essential.

The whole tone of a hostel is completely in the hands of the person who runs it. There may be changes in management, therefore I consider it essential that there should be some continued supervision in the form of either paid or honorary inspection by some competent body. With these remarks I have much pleasure in moving this resolution

Mrs. Subbarao (Hyderabad-Deccan) in seconding the resolution said.- as a member of the working committee of the hostel, I know how necessary a hostel is for working girls & students where they can be sure of having comfort and protection. It is also necessary to run it economically. We are fortunate at Hyderabad to have support from the Govt. The medical Dept. also pays toward the Bus fares for the midwives and Dayees who are undergoing training at the hospital. But for this hostel they would have no place to go. I hope most of the constituencies will be able to start such Hostels all over the country.

Mrs. S. N. Ray in supporting the resolution said I have been asked to tell you what the Calcutta delegation a few years ago has done in this respect. An enquiry committee was set up in Calcutta by the University to enquire into the condition of the hostels for girls, and it was discovered that there was a number of these hostels which were called hostels, but really had no sort of supervision. As Girls were not looked after properly and they had no fixed hours for anything, a strong representation was made to the University to do something about it. But apart from having this thing on paper, nothing has yet been done. It is a matter of great importance because there is certainly an overwhelming increase in the number of girls who come from districts to Calcutta. The parents do not know what conditions the girls are living under, because they think that the hostel is recognised by the University, and I think it is very necessary that the University and the Government should jointly take up the matter in their hands.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

“University at Poona—

This Conference urges the Government of Bombay to take all necessary steps to give at an early date statutory recognition of the S. N. D. Thackersay Indian Women's University which has been doing useful work for the higher education of women for the last 20 years.”

Mrs Gangaben Patwardhan (Baroda) in moving the resolution said At the Calcutta Conference in 1933, we passed a similar resolution Every year we are emphasising the need of introducing special subjects suited to women in their secondary and higher education We only passed resolutions, but Prof Karve long before the conception of our conference, started a separate University with that view and has opened a great field to put these very ideas into practice The reforms that we are suggesting have already been introduced in that University The University has affiliated institutions, not only in the Bombay Presidency but also in Sindh and Central Provinces Private candidates from different parts of India do appear for its different examinations and the number is increasing year by year. That speaks of the popularity of this institution The progress of the institution and that of the graduates and diploma-holders turned out by the University is hampered considerably by not being recognised by the Government.

It is high time now that we, as the representatives of the women of India, should give our full support to the unique institution and request the Bombay Government and others too in the long run to accord a statutory recognition to the university, which has been doing useful work for this last twenty years Prof Karve is now 80 years old and he has spent more than half of his life for the upliftment of Indian womanhood. It is the duty of all of us to do our best to pay our homage to his selfless work at his 81st birthday. His efforts ought to be crowned with success and Government recognition is the greatest need of the day.

We have our own Ministries in seven provinces. These Ministries do realise the importance of national education and hence this is the most opportune time for us to approach them in the matter and press the Government to do what is needed Hence I strongly commend this resolution and request you to pass it unanimously.

Mrs. Gangaben Patel recorded and Mrs. Hirlekar supported the resolution

The resolution was carried unanimously.

“SECONDARY EDUCATION;—

“The Conference is of the opinion that Secondary remodelled so as to include subjects such as Home Craft

Aid, Dietetics, Needle Craft, Cookery, Laundry, which should be made optional one at least being compulsory."

Miss Ferozuddin in moving the resolution said: I am coming from the Punjab, where in secondary education we have most of these subjects compulsory-viz. cooking, needle work, etc. I do not know what the problems are in the rest of the provinces of India. The very fact that this resolution is on the agenda seems to show that there is no uniformity in this matter.

There are some who want that it should go beyond even the post-graduate stage. As the conference is not a feminist body but wants to work for the united welfare of both men and women, I propose that boys should also learn something of homecraft in their secondary education course. And where mother-craft is concerned, there is need for father-craft also. The majority of men do not know how to behave in their homes, they do not know how to treat their wives in front of the children, and I think that it is very necessary that men should undergo some training as to what their behaviour ought to be when they come back from that work, and they ought to show due courtesy to their wives in front of the children, so that the children may learn to respect their mother.

Mrs. Sushila Pandit (Baroda) seconded the resolution in Hindustani, and Mrs. Savitribai Oke supported in Marathi.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The President: I wish to tell the delegates assembled here that ordinarily speaking we always have labour resolutions also for adoption, but owing to the fact that the Convener of the Labour Sub-Committee was unable to come herself or to send us any resolution, we did not know what exactly she was to have pressed for in that respect, and so a certain number of resolutions were therefore passed from the Chair. They are all non-controversial. I would now like to give our Harijan sister, an opportunity of speaking for a couple of minutes.

Mrs. Jaibai Chaudhari (C.P. South) then addressed the gathering for a few minutes.

The election of the six Vice-Presidents was then announced:-

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

1. Rani Rajwade.
2. Mrs. Ramabai Tambe.
3. Mrs. S. C. Mukerjee.
4. The Hon'ble Mrs. Vijayalaxmi Pandit.
5. Begum Hamid Ali.
6. Shrimathi Ammu Swaminadhan.

SOCIAL SECTION SECRETARY.

Mrs. Shardaben Mehta.

Concluding Remarks

The President in winding up the final sitting of the Conference said:-

It is now my extremely pleasant duty as President to express our gratitude to C P. South, C. P. North and Berar constituencies, and to have a few moments in which I can forget my heavy responsibilities. I have not words in which to express that gratitude to the Reception Committee, its President and all its members for the extremely fine and loving reception they have given us and for the exceedingly good arrangements they have made for us. Every year we feel as we visit different centres that we have made fresh links. This is our first visit to Nagpur for an Annual Session. We have had Nagpur's hospitality once before during our half-yearly meeting, and we hope that this is not the last time that we shall come to Nagpur. I am glad that the average attendance at this Annual Session of our sisters has perhaps been the biggest that we have so far had. This reflects very great credit on the arrangements. It is, perhaps, always invidious to mention names, but I would just like to say how grateful we are to Lady Chitnavis, who in spite of ill-health and physical incapacity has been attending our session so regularly. I would also like to mention Mrs. Tambe. I sincerely hope that when we go, she will cease from walking about and will really get rest she so sorely needs. I do not know how she has got through all that she has had to do. I wish to thank Mrs. Kale who I know has sometimes been up till late at night working on our behalf. I would like to say how very grateful we are to Mr. and Mrs. Gardinar for having lent us this compound and the hostel buildings, for our guests as well as to all those who have housed our delegates elsewhere. I must not forget those who have been so kind as to put their motor cars at our disposal. But for the co-operation of the residents of Nagpur we should never have been able to get all the amenities of life that we have had nor would have our session been the success it has been. I must say a word too of very great gratitude to the volunteers. I know I have had one who always appeared at my room at 7 o'clock in the morning and remained with me until she had seen me safely in bed. I am sure that they have done the same for everybody else, and I wish to propose a vote of thanks to these people on whose shoulders depends the success of our future work. I mention also the general Secretaries, Mrs. Abhyankar, Mrs. Mudgal, Kothiwari and Mrs. Parakh, all those who have entertained us, the Reception Committee who have given us the pleasure of witnessing their work, all those who have looked after our little wants, the Ladies' Committee, such a delightful afternoon party. I must not either forget

arranged the exhibition for us and for visits to other places. These exhibitions are of great help. If I have left out anybody whom I should have mentioned in Nagpur, you will forgive me. It is not for lack of gratitude, it is perhaps because I do not know their names. To the members of the Standing Committee I should like again to express very deep regret on behalf of myself and of all the delegates, at the absence from our deliberations, owing to illness of Mrs. Swaminadhan, our retiring Chairwoman. In thanking her for her work during the last year, I want to wish her good health and I am sure she will continue to take the same interest in our work as before. I wish again to thank the Liaison Officer from England for having come out, and I hope that she will continue her good work on our behalf. I wish to pass a vote of thanks to those women legislators who have come here, in particular the Hon'ble Mrs. Vijayalaxmi Pandit who is an extremely busy woman, but who, in spite of her work took the trouble to come here for one night. We welcome her with very great rejoicing to our Standing Committee. I also wish to record a vote of thanks to our Organising Secretary for all that she has done for us during the year, and to wish her another year of success, also to our Secretary under training, Miss Bhalero. I hope that she will soon also be a permanent member of our staff, in fact I look upon her as one already. All those who have done in any way any kind of work for us in the shape of tellers etc., every one of them is entitled to our thanks. The Organising Secretary wishes me to thank very heartily our Auditors, Messrs Sorab S. Engineer & Co of Bombay, who have audited our accounts free of charge. Ordinarily this would have cost us a fair sum of money. Lastly to those who responded generously the other day to an appeal for funds we are very grateful. I wish in conclusion to ask for forgiveness if I have failed in my duty in any way. You have placed upon me a double duty, not only of a President but also that of your Chairwoman. It is a very heavy burden and I am not sure of shouldering it efficiently. Of one thing I am certain, however, and that is that unless I have the co-operation and affection of all of you and I claim this in a double measure for the coming year, I cannot possibly be of any service to our cause. I pray for God's blessings on this Conference and on its work during the coming year and the years to follow.

The following is the text of the speech of the retiring Chairman, Mrs. Ammu Swaminadhan, which she was not able to read due to her illness -

On the eve of our departure I should like to acknowledge my thanks to all those who have contributed in making the Nagpur Session of the Conference the tremendous success that it has been. I know that I express the view of all the delegates when I say that we feel extremely grateful to the women of Nagpur not only for their lavish hospitality but because they have welcomed us so cordially and made us so much at home.

To my colleagues, in particular, I owe a deep sense of gratitude for all



Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan,
Chairwoman, Standing Committee, 1937

the work they have put throughout the year. The work of the Conference has increased tremendously, and each year all the Sectional Secretaries, the Conveners and the Standing Committee members have to face an increased volume of work. The help and advice that our President and Vice-Presidents have given us has been of invaluable service to us.

Last but not the least, I should like to thank our Honorary Organising Secretary for all that she has done for us throughout the year. We know what a burden of responsibility rests on her shoulders. The efficient and prompt manner in which Mrs Dina Asana had carried on her work reflects credit on her. Her unfailing courtesy has won the hearts of all. Her untiring zeal, patience and tact are known to all of us, and I am sure that you will all join with me in rendering her our grateful thanks. We are glad she has been re-elected Hon Organising Secretary, and that she has accepted the post. To our retiring Social Section Secretary, Mrs J. R. Doctor, we must also render thanks for the able work she has put in for the last 2 years. Our gratitude is also due to our Educational Section Secretary, Liaison Officers in India and England, and all the Conveners of Sub-Committees, who have worked ably and loyally for the cause of the Conference, during the year.

Begum Hamid Ali, in proposing a vote of thanks to the Chair, said Rajkumari, on behalf of the Chairwoman, Mrs. Swaminadhan, who unfortunately is ill, I have the great pleasure of thanking you on behalf of the whole Conference for having presided so ably at our deliberations, and we hope our Conference will have a very, very successful year under your guidance.

Mrs Tambe in thanking all the delegates said Madam President and sisters, I am standing here on behalf of the Reception Committee just to tell you how happy we were in welcoming you all here. I know this session has been successful just because of the help we had from the Organising Secretary and all of you who are here. I know the delegates have also given us full co-operation in making our arrangements successful. Without their help I know it would not have been possible. However, I must say that there have been many inconveniences, particularly about conveyance arrangements. We tried our best to find one place to accommodate all of you in one building, but unfortunately we could not find a building here in Nagpur to accommodate about 225 delegates and visitors, and that is why we had to accommodate them in different buildings, which had put you to great inconvenience. But I know now we are so much used to this Conference and everyone knows that this is bound to be so when all of us are to be together when we have to manage for so many people, and I am sure every one has looked at these arrangements from that point of view. With these words, once again, I on behalf of Berar and on behalf North C P. and South C P, tell you how happy we have been this last week, and we are very sorry that this is over.

and you should be going very soon, and I hope all of us will remember this Conference will be a great occasion of our life and will always remember it

Lady Nilkanth in seconding the vote of thanks said I have very great pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks proposed by Begum Hamid Ali. It is easy to imagine what a strain it must have been to Rajkumari Amrit Kaur to carry the work amidst such a huge crowd of women and for four days continuously. We must congratulate her on the tactful and able manner in which she has carried on the deliberations of this Conference, and I hope that we shall go home with pleasant memories of this place. In these four days we have seen how keen she has been on the Conference Work. I congratulate her on behalf of myself and on behalf of all of you for the successful way in which she has conducted our deliberations.

Mrs. S. C. Mukerji said, Madam President and delegates, I have asked permission of the Chair to be allowed to say a few words to you before we all leave Nagpur. We shall all leave with a very sad heart indeed, because in these few days we have felt ourselves like one happy family that we had got together, and we are all so keen with our work that we often fell out with each other over minor differences. But surely that is really very happy sign of the times. Difference of opinion should not really matter much, and in spite of our differences we are attached to one another because we are all members of the one Conference, and we all want one and the same thing—the betterment of our people and the nation. whatever you like to say. We have passed quite a number of resolutions, but when we are going back to our constituencies with these resolutions, all of us want to see that some of these at least have taken some practical shape in our constituencies and through our Local Committees in the area from where we come. I appeal to you, delegates, who have come here and heard the deliberations these four days to come to the help of your Local Committees and offer your services and spread the ideals and the questions that we have taken up. It is one of the largest sessions we have had so far at least the largest that I have attended. It is a great encouragement to the workers and it must be very much so to the President, and to all of us to see the keen and rapt attention of not only the delegates and the Reception Committee members, but also the visitors who came from all parts of India and abroad and keenly followed our deliberations. The influence of our Conference will undoubtedly spread in the course of the next few years. I only hope that other constituencies will in future be able to arrange for even a larger attendance than Nagpur. It shows how much trouble and how much propaganda the members of the Reception and the Local Committee must have done and what an amount of trouble they must have taken in making this session such great success.

After Vande Mataram, the Conference terminated.

EDUCATIONAL RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT NAGPUR

Primary Education This Conference urges the universal introduction of free and compulsory Primary Education without further delay. With this purpose in view we request the authorities

- (a) To provide for properly trained teachers the majority of whom should be women.
- (b) To request the Government of each Province and State to make adequate provision for this item in the budget for the next year,
- (c) To make provision for the re-orientation of such education with special stress laid on training in handicrafts
- (d) In order to effect economy, " the shift system " be introduced where possible and boys and girls be taught together
- (e) In rural areas where necessary "seasonal" education be arranged for
- (f) That buildings however simple, with playgrounds and adequate sanitary arrangements be provided in suitable localities
- (g) That medical Inspection and treatment begin at this stage and be made compulsory by legislation, and care should be taken to appoint efficient and responsible doctors
- (h) That all Primary Education should be on a non-communal basis

Voluntary Service This Conference urges all educated men and women to further the cause of education on the following definite lines,-

- (a) To organise well-run Nursery Schools for children between the ages of 3 and 6.
- (b) To form Care Committees to follow up in a practical manner the work of medical inspection and treatment
- (c) To provide buildings, however simple, for schools
- (d) To make special efforts to promote adult education individually and through organisations
- (e) That Co-operative Societies be formed to raise money for investing in buildings for schools, the interest on the capital thus raised, being paid by the rent which in its turn must be collected by private effort if not contributed by Government

Mal-Nutrition (a) That every person responsible for the education of children should study and understand the principles of dietetics and nourishment and spread knowledge in this direction

(b) To combat the evil of mal-nutrition the authorities should make every effort to supply suitable nourishment to such children as need it

Literature, Etc This Conference lodges its emphatic protest against the publication and circulation of obscene literature, pictures and films throughout India and demands that instances be reported immediately to the authorities concerned who are urged to take drastic action

In this connection this Conference proposes that sex education be imparted by suitable teachers.

Common Language This Conference resolves that it is desirable that in order to promote cultural unity and harmony amongst the people of India, Hindustani be made the common language the script used being either Devanagiri or Persian With the purpose in view it calls upon (a) all Constituencies of the A I W C to help by starting work in this direction.

(b) that Hindustani be taught as an optional second language in Primary Schools

Hostels This Conference reiterates its demand that sufficient number of recognised Hostels should be established for women students by the authorities concerned and that they should be efficiently supervised by experienced and responsible women as Inspectresses

University At Poona This Conference urges the Government of Bombay to take all necessary steps to give at an early date statutory recognition of the S N D Thackersay Indian Women's University which has been doing useful work for the higher education of women for the last 20 years

Secondary Education This Conference is of the opinion that Secondary Education for girls be remodelled so as to include subjects such as Home Craft, Home Nursing, First Aid, Dietetics, Needle Craft, Cookery, Laundry which should be made optional one at least being compulsory.

General This Conference congratulates Professor D K Karve, the veteran champion of women's education, on his having attained the age of eighty, and records their heartfelt appreciation of his splendid work in this sphere, and one or two members of the A I W C. be deputed as representatives to take part in his 81st Birth-day celebration -

SOCIAL RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT NAGPUR

Condolence Resolution—(1) This Conference expresses its heart-felt sympathies towards Lady Bose for the sad and untimely demise of Sir Jagadish Chandar Bose, one of the greatest sons of India

Congratulatory Resolutions—(2) This Conference congratulates the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore for having placed on its Legislature the 'Act' for the suppression of immoral traffic in women and children

This Conference also congratulates the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore for passing the "Maternity Benefits Act" by which women working in factories are given leave on full pay for four weeks before and four weeks after confinement

(3) This Conference congratulates His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad and Berar for having so graciously accorded his consent to the "Hindu Widow Remarriage Bill "

(4) This Conference congratulates H H the Maharajah of Travancore for so graciously giving his assent to the Hindu Widow Remarriage Bill recently passed by both the Houses of Legislature in the State

(5) This Conference congratulates the Government of H H the Maharajah of Travancore for appointing, for the first time in India, a woman to the Judiciary of the State

(6) This Conference congratulates Mrs Anna Chandy on her appointment as the first woman Munsiff in India, in Travancore State

(7) This Conference congratulates the Government of H H the Maharajah of Gwalior for passing into law the Widow Remarriage Act.

Evil Social Customs—(8) This Conference expresses its emphatic protest against such evil social customs, as undue expenses on occasions of marriage and death, sale of brides and bridegrooms, dowry, prejudice against widow remarriage, polygamy, intensive intercaste marriages, and purdah

Obscene literature and advertisements—9. (a) This Conference lodges its emphatic protest against the circulation, overt, as well as, covert of obscene literature throughout India

(b) We have cause to believe that such obnoxious literature is provided by small bookstall holders for the younger generation, that is, to students of schools and colleges and of both sexes.

- (c) We therefore request the authorities concerned to take drastic and immediate steps into the matter and stamp out the evil as soon as possible and give every encouragement to the publication of better literature.
- (d) We further request the public and Government to censure all such journals and newspapers that continue to indulge in the pernicious practice of publishing obscene and outrageous articles and advertisements which constitute an insult to woman-hood in general and violate all the laws of decency in a manner that cannot be tolerated by any civilized nation

10. Bills Pending Legislation This Conference supports Mr. Rajah's Bill for removing the disabilities of depressed classes

11 This Conference supports the amendments proposed by Mr. B. Das and Mr. Lalchand Navalrai in the Central Legislative Assembly to the Sarda Act and express its opinion that an additional clause should be added to the Act, so that people who celebrate child marriages outside British territory in order to evade the consequences of the Act, though residents of British India, may be punished and that this Act should be so amended as to declare all marriages performed under the contravention of the Sarda Act null and void

12 Legal Disabilities Of Women This Conference strongly protests against existing discriminations in the Hindu Law against the rights of women It demands that the existing laws should be so amended as to make them equitable and just

13. Recording of marriages, births and deaths. This Conference recommends that all Municipalities and local authorities in British India and the States should pass rules and regulations for compulsory official recording of all marriages and deaths.

14 Child protection This Conference is emphatically of opinion that Children's Acts should be introduced at an early date in places wherever they do not exist, both in the Provinces and the States.

15. Rural Uplift This Conference views with grave concern the conditions of life in general in Indian villages particularly in regard to education and sanitation We confidently hope that the Government will do everything possible to further the cause which all well-wishers of India have at heart, and support the request of the Karachi Constituency to enable it to carry out the constructive programme which it has in view about the Chanesar village by extending the help sought for by the local workers of the A I W. C.

16 Legislation for beggars This Conference strongly disapproves the prevalence of professional begging and urges legislation for its prevention, and calls upon the public to co-operate by diverting their charities in this sphere towards the creation and support of institutions, and for the provision of Beggar Homes, Work Houses and Infirmaries, and enforce legislation for the eradication of this evil

Women in legislatures—17. This Conference congratulates all women M L A.'s and members of the Upper Houses, and hopes that they will work for women's cause and sponsor bills on urgent social reform in the legislatures. It feels particularly gratified that the U. P. Assembly have taken the lead in appointing Mrs Pandit as the first woman Minister and also congratulates other Provincial Legislatures who have appointed women as Deputy Presidents and Parliamentary Secretaries.

Protest against wars of aggression—18 While the memory of the cruel rape of Abyssinia is still fresh in our minds, and the horrors of the fratricidal warfare in Spain continue to haunt us, Japan's ruthless aggression against China has come, as it were, as a further blow to shatter all our hopes of peace. We are bitterly disappointed at the incapacity and inability of all the so-called great powers of the world to put an end to the injustices consequent on the oppression of the weak and poor. We are convinced that increasing armaments of warfare by land, sea and air, and the harnessing of the knowledge of science for the purpose of destruction are not going to bring peace to a troubled and stricken world. We feel that it is through the weapons of love alone that a new order can be ushered in. Standing on the threshold of another year we dedicate ourselves to non-violence in thought, word and deed, and appeal to women throughout the world to join hands with us, for we are confident that this doctrine alone can quell the desire for possession, can save the nations from racial jealousies and communal strife and protect humanity from oppression and exploitation.

Women in Departmental Services—19. This conference urges that no sex disqualifications should be shown for debarring women from services in any department of Government.

20. Women in Jails. This Conference draws particular attention of the various provincial Governments to the extremely unsatisfactory condition of women in jails and calls upon them to take effective measures for their mental and moral uplift.

Opium and other Harmful Drugs

21. (a) This Conference resolves that the Government of India be asked to undertake an inquiry and find out the exact amount of opium needed for medical purposes in India with a view to the curtailment and gradual

reduction in poppy cultivation, and also for reporting to the League of Nations which is preparing for an Opium Conference in 1939-1940.

- (b) Registration of opium addicts and smokers must be undertaken in each Province by a Provincial Government Department created specially for registration of opium addicts and opium smokers.
- (c) Each person desiring to be registered should be certified by a doctor appointed by Government.
- (d) A minimum dose to be fixed, and sealed packets of different weights to be made up by a Central Government Department administered in the same manner as the postal and revenue stamps department. No dose to be given to an uncertified person, any person wanting to have more than the standard dose—to be certified by a Board of Directors appointed by Government.
- (e) Licensed opium shops to be abolished and Government opium depots to be opened.
- (f) In case of smokers no prescribed dose of opium be given unless and until the dross from the previous dose is returned. Medicated Opium according to the League of Nations prescription should replace opium sold in its present form
- (g) The allotment of the doses of opium to addicts should be under the direct supervision of a Medical or Health Department created specially for this purpose, with instructions to reduce the dose gradually and to refuse to give any more to those who have reached the minimum. Such persons may be kept under observation in a special central sanatorium for a prescribed time and prophylactic treatment may be given to them
- (h) That each unit of the A. I. W. C. should consult a panel of medical practitioners to find out the exact amount of opium necessary for medical needs for that particular area That such information should be sent to the Convener of the Opium Sub-Committee of the A. I. W. C. That Government should also undertake to register charas, bhang and other dangerous drug addicts and take the same measures for restriction of sale and gradual alienation of production of these drugs.

22. **Facilities for Third Class Railway Passengers.** This Conference requests the railway authorities to add more third-class carriages to avoid unhealthy over-crowding of passengers in third-class compartments and appeals to the railway companies to make separate arrangements for issuing tickets for men and women 3rd class passengers on railway stations,

especially on stations of pilgrimage where the necessity is very great. Besides, wherever it is possible, women ticket officers and ticket examiners should be provided for, and there should be separate entrance and exit for women on railway stations.

23. Housing Facility for Labourers This Conference is of opinion that the labouring populations should have healthy dwelling-houses with plenty of air and light, facilities for water and its disposal and proper sanitary arrangements.

24. Women workers eliminated from mines This meeting of the All India Women's Conference strongly urges the Government and the authorities concerned to take immediate action for the provision of suitable employment for women workers eliminated from mines and the fixing of adequate minimum wage for men mine workers whose family income has been reduced by such elimination.

25. Unregulated Industries This Conference urges upon the Government the necessity of introducing legislation to regulate the condition of hours of work in unregulated industries.

26. Status of women in India This Conference is of opinion that the status of women in India should be included in the inquiry on the Status of women by the League of Nations.

27. Encouragement of swadeshi—It is the firm belief of this Conference that women can help tremendously the economic progress of the country by using and advocating the use of Swadeshi articles.

28. Removal of legal disabilities of women—This Conference urges upon the various Governments to introduce a bill making the following additions and alterations in the existing Hindu Law as it affects marriage and divorce.

- (a) That monogamy should be made compulsory.
- (b) That the custody of the child should be given to the mother unless there is just cause for withholding the same,
- (c) That the age of marriage should be raised to 16 for girls and 20 for boys
- (d) That there should be suitable provision in the Hindu Law for divorce on the following principles —

- (i) Desertion
- (ii) Lunacy
- (iii) Cruelty

- (iv) Adultery
- (v) Drunkenness
- (vi) Leprosy

29. Traffic in women and children—This Conference is of opinion that Acts for the suppression of traffic in women and children be introduced in all Provinces and Indian States where they do not exist and to provide for suitable amendments to such Acts in the provinces, where they are in force, to make them stricter and more effective, and urges the Legislatures to introduce such Acts and amendments at an early date, for establishment of Remand and Rescue Homes for Women and Children so that the Acts can be effectively enforced.

30. Birth control clinics—This Conference believes that it is the duty of medical departments and local authorities to take immediate steps to put an end to the advertisement and sale of birth control remedies by quacks which ruin the health of women in many cases. It appeals to medical departments and municipalities to educate men and women in birth control methods from the point of view of their ill health, mental weakness and economic considerations. Such clinics should be specially opened in labour areas.

31. Legislation enforcing prohibition—This Conference whole-heartedly supports the policy of prohibition initiated by seven provinces.

- (a) It calls upon its branches and members to render all help they can towards the attainment of this desirable goal.
- (b) It appeals to the remaining provinces and all Indian States to follow this lead and bring in the necessary legislation in their areas also
- (c) It is of opinion that the policy of prohibition should be enforced also in the case of ganja, opium, cocaine, and all other drugs of recognised harmfulness.

32. Cruelty to animals—(a) This Conference expresses its disapproval and disgust at all forms of cruelty to domestic and other animals in India, not only on humane but also on economic grounds, and because of the psychological effects such cruelty has on the minds and character of children, and recommends that some of the small books and pamphlets published by various Animal Welfare Societies in several vernaculars should be introduced as Readers in Rural Schools and distributed by Rural Reconstruction and Village Uplift Societies.

(b) This Conference urges Government to take legislative steps to protect milch kine in India, regard being had to the fact that India is mainly an agricultural country, and that sufficient supply of cow's milk is not available.

*SECTIONAL AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS.

1937

REPORT OF THE EDUCATION SECTION

Miss Z Lazarus

I have much pleasure in presenting to you the report of the Education Section for the year 1937. I must confess that before I began to shoulder the responsibility some of my friends warned me that the work would be dull and monotonous as many of the topics appeared as hardy annuals year after year but I am glad to admit that during the course of this year, there has been a decided revival in enthusiasm and a new orientation given to the educational outlook.

Two factors have been chiefly responsible for this orientation in outlook. The Associated Press of India announced early in July 1937, that the Government of India would shortly appoint a Sub-Committee of the Central Advisory Board of Education to consider the question of the Curriculum of Girls' Primary Schools and the administration of Primary Education. On the 9th July, as Educational Secretary I wrote to the Educational Commissioner at Simla requesting that the A. I. W. C. might be represented on this Committee as we had been working at this subject for eleven years. In the meanwhile, at that momentous meeting of the Standing Committee at Phaltan Rajkumari Amrit Kaur with the permission of the Educational Commissioner Mr. Parkinson, placed before us the Draft Report of the Central Advisory Board of Education. We added several resolutions regarding Staff, Medical Inspection, Inadequate funds of Local Bodies, Handwork and Music as additional subjects. Immediately after the Phalan Meeting another letter arrived from Mr. Parkinson requesting me to let him know which portions of the draft required alteration, modification or contradiction, stating that we could be as critical as we liked as he would welcome our comments. The resolutions and suggestions were immediately despatched with an explanatory note which the Educational Commissioner acknowledged stating that they proved to be "very helpful".

In the meanwhile a lead was given to the various constituencies on these lines and new ideas spread regarding the correlation of school life with the pupil's environment, the widening of the scope of the curriculum so as to

include new and important subjects such as Dietetics, Cookery, Home Nursing and First aid with which every girl should be familiar before she leaves school

In the Hon. Organising Secretary's Circular No 27 dated 9th October '37, a questionnaire was sent round to all constituencies regarding the introduction of subjects with a vocational bias, Hindustani as a compulsory language, courses in Hygiene and Biology and whether Sex education of the right sort should be taught by the right kind of women teachers in the religious and moral instruction class. There came a most encouraging response in the affirmative from several constituencies on all these points except the last one which they considered though very important should be postponed for the present because of the paucity of trained teachers. Several schools in America and Europe introduced this subject many years ago with beneficial results. With regard to Dietetics we cannot stress too much importance in the curriculum as we are aware that many of the complaints from which our students, even the well-to-do ones suffer, are due to malnutrition and ignorance of a balanced diet. Those of us who are connected with the department of education either officially or unofficially should impart knowledge not only according to the stereotyped syllabus but try to enter into the human aspect of the educational curriculum and realise that each student entrusted to our care is a national asset.

With regard to the Hon. Organising Secretary's Circular No. 28 dated 20th Oct. 1937 the replies received from many of the constituencies expressed a great variety of opinion, e. g. the question of making Elementary Education self supporting was not considered to be practicable by many while just a few had put the idea into practice and had introduced Spinning, Weaving and Needle Craft as an experimental measure. To prevent lapsing into illiteracy, Continuation Schools were being started in a few areas in the Madras Presidency along with Reading Room and Travelling Libraries. The 'Shift System' was working well in Bombay and could be adopted with great advantage in other large cities. The majority of constituencies were unanimous that Government should assume control of Primary Education; but before "this consummation devoutly to be hoped for," the Delhi Women's League has started a school for Harijan girls which is progressing satisfactorily, while a few of the pupils who have passed the Middle School Examination, are undergoing a course in technical training. The League has also interested itself in the Industrial school for women and helped to popularise the institution while they have actually put into practice at the village of Chandrawal, the Wardha Education Scheme by imparting education through some craft or productive work "which should provide the nucleus of all the other instruction provided in the school and that this craft should be taught efficiently and thoroughly to enable the

school to pay towards the cost of the teaching Staff'. Therefore, Delhi has answered the challenge that the "selfsupporting scheme" is reasonable and workable. The Maharashtra Constituency specialised during the year on mass education and spread of literacy in Poona City and at Singhad where backward children were taught reading and writing in Marathi. Efforts have also been made to induce the local schools to start special Hindi Classes. I agree with Rajkumari Amrit Kaur that each delegation from each Constituency should definitely undertake to show some practical work in any sphere or spheres before the next session.

From the Branch of East Bengal comes the excellent report that three primary schools are run by the Education Sub-Committee and the pupils from these schools find no difficulty in gaining admission into High Schools, while there is a fourth school for Harijan boys and girls at Narinda and an Industrial school also where vocational training is given in Needle work.

As I have received no reports from the other constituencies, I regret special mention cannot be made regarding their work in detail.

You are all aware that there are four Sub-Committees working under Education section viz Literacy with Miss S. Daundkar as Convener, Health with Mrs. Sukthankar as Convener, Common Language with Miss Hasan as Convener and Vocation with myself as Convener. The representatives of those constituencies will read to you their reports which I am sure you will find instructive and interesting.

The Vocation Sub-Committee which was started at the commencement of this year, from the reports received from various constituencies, has not only justified its existence but has done a great deal of spade work in the direction of making elementary and adult education productive. Amongst the industries in Bombay may be mentioned Embroidery and all kinds of needle craft, child-care and home nursing, gardening produce (vegetable and fruits), work in leather. In Travancore, besides the exquisite hand-embroidery taught in the schools and convents, fine mats are woven into bags, cushions, luncheon sets etc. In Bangalore, two of the samajas have started special schools for adult women who are chiefly widows and deserted wives. They are taught handicrafts such as Rattan and basket making, knitting, string bags, Badminton Nets, plywood work and toys. There are Primary classes also and the pupils are trained for the middle School Public Examination. The articles made by them are all sold thus proving that education can to a great extent be made self-supporting.

In the Mysore State, at a place called Dodballapur, a Vocational School has been opened by the Y. M. C. A. aided by the Mysore Government. The

next Training Class will be held from 17th Jan. 1938 to 16th Feb. 1938. The school is open to all and special arrangements will be made for Women desirous of attending the school. Speaking from personal experience, I would recommend it strongly to all members who are tired of listening to theoretical explanations and would like to see the work actually done in a village, where practical lessons are given on Health, Sanitation, Elementary Agriculture etc.

SOCIAL SECTION REPORT, 1937

Mrs. J. R. Doctor.

The work of the Social Section is carried on with great activity during the year under report.

It was decided at the Standing Committee Meeting at Ahmedabad that in order to acquaint women with the need for urgent Social Reform, small pamphlets or brochures should be published in several vernaculars, on Social and Educational reform Subjects, to be distributed amongst women all over India. Accordingly a circular was sent round to the Brochure Sub-Committee suggesting subjects for Brochures and the writers thereof and the ways and means of publishing them. Among the subjects suggested by me were the Evils of Child-Marriage, Encouragement of Indigenous Industries, Legal Disabilities of women in its various aspects with relation to Marriage, Divorce, Property and Maintenance Rights, Custody of Children, urgent need for legislation for the Suppression of Traffic in Women and Children, and Child Welfare in its many different forms.

In one of my Social Section circulars I had mentioned that Dr. Ekstrand, Director of the Social Section of the League of Nations, gave a graphic description, at a meeting in Bombay, of the work undertaken by the League in this department. According to Dr. Ekstrand, the Child-Problem presents various aspects, namely the problem of the Beggar, the Mentally-Deficient, the Crippled, the Abandoned, the Destitute, the Delinquent, and the Illegitimate Children, and each of these aspects requires careful study and its solution. Dr Ekstrand explained that the want of a comprehensive study of the Child-Problem and the absence of adequate legislation and enforcement of existing legislation for the amelioration of child sufferers in India, lead to very grave results, and I urged the necessity for each Constituency to take up one or more of these problems as part of the Social work. The problem of Child-Beggars is an acute one, and is being tackled by some Constituencies. In some Provinces in India Children's Acts are enacted, which penalise adults

for making or forcing children to beg for their own gain, but the absence of adequate Homes for destitute and beggar Children deters the Authorities from enforcing the Act vigorously I strongly recommend the Constituencies to tackle the Child-Problem in all earnest and demand suitable legislation for Child Protection.

The successful passage of the Arya Marriage Validity Bill by the Central Legislature, created a sensation among women, because although by the Act, Inter-Caste marriages were validated, there was no provision in the Act for enforcing monogamy, and for succession to Property by women married under the Act. In this connection vigorous protest was lodged by some of the constituencies. Protest was raised to the effect that the Act was not circulated to women's Organisations for their opinion. The Passing of Dr. Deshmukh's Bill in its whittled form, that is, giving property rights to widows only and not to daughters as well was also keenly resented, and a vigorous protest was voiced on the matter Attention of Constituencies was drawn to the Social Resolutions passed at the last Conference which required immediate attention. In this connection I am glad to mention here that through the exertions of Lady Nilkanth, the Ahmedabad Municipality has passed the Act for compulsory registration of marriages in the Municipal areas A letter of congratulations was written to Lady Nilkanth in this connection.

In my half yearly report I suggested the formation of a committee to deal with the Traffic in Women and Children, with Mrs. Mukerjee as Convener and I am glad to announce that such a Committee has been formed. I have much pleasure to announce that the Bombay Government has extended the Bombay Maternity Benefits Act to the Districts of Ahmedabad, Poona, Bijapur and Kolaba with effect from 1st November 1937. Reports from Constituencies show great activity in the Social Section. Ante-natal and Baby Clinics have been started at two villages in Mysore and at the head-quarters of the Constituency. Great encouragement is given to Swadeshi Industry The Government of H. H. The Maharajah of Mysore is to be warmly congratulated for the passing of the Maternity Benefits Act

At Konkan, work has been done for improving health conditions in the villages, with the help of trained midwives Attempts are made to remove untouchability. Along with Rural Reconstruction Work, Delhi has opened needlecraft and embroidery classes for women which are very well attended. Indigenous industries are given every encouragement. A Maternity Benefits Act has been introduced into the Province. A reception was held in March in honour of Women Members of the Legislatures, as suggested by the A. I. W. C. Bombay has formed a Social sub-committee to deal with Social questions, and have taken up the work of the "Care of the School-Going Children" with the co-

operation of the Schools Committee. The Bombay Women's Association with forty other women's associations held a successful public meeting to lend support to Mr Das's Bill to amend the Sarda Act, with urgent demand for a further amendment to the effect that persons who performed child marriages outside British India or Foreign States should be punished as in cases of such marriages performed in British India. Maharashtra has formed several sub-committees to deal with Social and Educational problems. Medical help is given at Village-Welfare centres. Maharashtra has five sub-constituencies. An entertainment was organised to meet Women members of the Provincial Legislative Assemblies. Ahmedabad showed greater activity for work on the lines of the A. I. W. C. after the fillip given by the Annual Conference of the A. I. W. C. held there, last year. Prohibition and Village Uplift are undertaken, and attempts are being made for mass contact with women. Travancore has Rural Reconstruction and Health sub-committees doing good work. Beggar problem is taken in hand.

It is with great pleasure we thank and congratulate H. H. the Maharajah of Travancore for giving his assent to the Hindu Widow Remarriage Bill recently passed in both Houses of Legislature in the State. We further offer our heartfelt thanks and congratulations to the Government of H. H. the Maharajah of Travancore for appointing, for first time in India, a woman to the Judiciary of the State. We offer our sincere congratulations to Mrs. Anna Chandy on her appointment as the first woman Munsiff in India, in the Travancore State. Sangli has undertaken Village Uplift and Harijan problems. We are glad to note that the State has nominated a woman member on the State Rayat Assembly.

In March a sub-constituency was opened in Phaltan, which started work with the spread of literacy among adult women, and promoting child welfare. In July the State very kindly invited the A. I. W. C. to hold its Half-Yearly meeting at Phaltan which was a great success. At the Meeting Phaltan was formed into a Constituency of the A. I. W. C., and for which we congratulate the State.

The Annual Conference of the Hyderabad (Deccan) Constituency was a whole-day affair and was very largely attended. H. H. the Princess of Berar very kindly presided. We are glad to note the keen interest and active part taken by ladies of the various States in the A. I. W. C., and trust that their co-operation will render much help to women of the States towards their attempts to remove the Social and Legal Disabilities of women in Indian States. We offer our heartfelt thanks and congratulations to H. E. H. The Nizam of Hyderabad for giving assent to the "Hindu Widow Remarriage Bill." At the conference, the need for the development of Cottage Industries was stressed, and demands were made for granting Civic rights to women. The various

sub-committees of Cochin carry on the Social and Educational reform work. The women of Cochin State have very few Social and Legal disabilities, and women are appointed on all Civic bodies in the State, for which we congratulate them

In Baroda the needle-work guild has extended its activities to other districts. Village uplift and town cleaning work is enthusiastically carried on, and two harijan women have become members of the Constituency. Oudh is tackling the Beggar and Leper problem, and rural development is undertaken.

Moradabad has carried on extensive propaganda against child-marriage, and in support of Mr Das's Amendments to the Sarda Act. Village uplift Temperance work, visits to Hospitals and monthly visits to women in jails are undertaken

Sind has very seriously tackled the question of the violation of the Sarda Act, and the violators of this Act are hauled to the Courts and got severely punished. The agitation carried on against the opening of brothels at Public Fairs has resulted in the suppression of this evil custom. Beggar problem is also discussed with a view to stop the nuisance Simla sub-constituency is considering the enrolment of women for a very nominal annual fee, and has decided to attach itself to the Delhi Branch instead of Punjab Central A park has been opened for women and children at Simla The opening ceremony was performed by Rajkumari Amrit Kaur. The C. P (South) constituency is actively engaged in Jail work and propaganda as regards Social legislation This year they have very kindly invited the A I W C to hold its Annual Session at Nagpur.

Calcutta reports good results achieved in Baby—Clinics which has a large daily attendance Agitation is still carried on to combat the offences against women The constituency felt itself honoured by the deputation of its Chairwoman Mrs. Mukerjee, by the Government of India, to represent India at the Java Conference on Traffic in Women and Children and where Mrs Mukerjee was appointed one of the Vice—Presidents

Bihar is taking active steps to awaken the interest of women in Social and Civic matters.

Amraoti branch of the Berar Constituency is carrying on active work in Child-Welfare Centres, Hospitals and Maternity Homes. We are glad to note that four Hon. women magistrates have been given powers of second class magistrates Akola has started a Hostel for Harijan girls Yeotmal with its five branches called Mahila Samajas, is very active. They have opened Child—Welfare Centres, and women work as members on school Committees, Hon Magistrates, and Jail visitors Buldana Branch has opened rural uplift classes and women are given instruction in Arts and Home-Crafts, and printing and dyeing of cloth The Bengal East Branch has several sub-committees

to deal with social, educational, and health problems Nursing and midwifery classes are held and students prepare for Midwifery Diploma.

Comilla sub-constituency of East Bengal is actively engaged in Rural Uplift, and classes for needlework and homecraft are conducted. Health exhibitions and Baby Shows are regularly held. With a ready response from kind donors a building is under construction for a Baby and Maternity Clinic Classes are held for Dai training.

The One-year old Shillong Constituency is well on its way with classes in needlework, weaving first-aid and home-nursing Steps are being taken to pass legislation for the registration of nurses and midwives

The Liaison Officer and the Sub-Committees on Harijan and Franchise have done very good work as will be seen from their reports.

It is gratifying to note that the French Government have, by an Official Decree, forbidden child-marriages in French Possessions in India, and have fixed the same minimum marriageable ages for boys and girls The penalty for marriages in contravention of the Decree is imprisonment upto one month for responsible relatives, guardians, Officials and priests. Child-marriages under the fixed minimum age are declared null and void because they are held to be illegal. The Preamble to the Decree points out that Child-Marriages are rigorously prohibited in British India, and therefore the French prestige demands the termination of a state of affairs prejudicial to the Race in the Country, to Morals and to individual liberty. The Standing-Committee of the A. I. W. C. held at Nagpur has authorised me to convey the A. I. W. C.'s thanks and appreciation for the same to the French Government

The enthusiasm evinced in the Constituencies to take urgent steps for the enforcement of the Sarda Act, and advocating amendments for making the Act more rigid and effective, the demands for urgent Legislation for the removal of the Social, Legal and Economic Disabilities of women in India, the enactment of Legislation on some of these urgent Social Reforms in some of the Indian States and the French Possessions in India, the appointment of a woman to the Judiciary in Travancore and the success of Women at the last Assembly and Council elections and their appointment on the Cabinet and as Parliamentary Secretaries and Deputy Speakers, show the great awakening among women, through the A. I. W. C., for the amelioration of the condition of women and children in India, and I sincerely hope that this awakening will be lasting and effective, and that very soon the Women of India will see their ideals of Social Reform fulfilled, so that they could proudly hold up their heads among the Women of the World as having achieved, by their own assiduous and untiring efforts, their goal of Equal Status with Men.

Liaison Officer's Report, 1937.

(Mrs S. N. Ray)

During the year under review the Liaison work has prospered and the Conference has been successful in making many new contacts with women's organisations in various countries in the world. The Liaison Group of British Women's Organisations continues to take a very active and abiding interest in our work and it is ever on the alert to help in every way they can to further our cause. The Bulletin which they issue regularly has been instrumental in bringing about a much greater understanding of India and the aspirations of Indian women not only in England but in many other countries, and the Bulletin now goes to Holland, Belgium, France, Czechoslovakia, Geneva, U S A, Egypt, South Africa and Australia. The Special Election Number published after our election in India was a tremendous success and we have to be grateful to both Mrs Lankester and Miss Agatha Harrison for all the trouble they took over it. On Miss Agatha Harrison's return to England after the Ahmedabad Session, she addressed various meetings where she gave a detailed and sympathetic account of the Conference work. We are very fortunate indeed to have Mrs. Lankester with us this year as a Special Visitor. She has been our Liaison Officer in England ever since the contact with the Liaison Committee was created by Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, four years ago, and it is largely due to Mrs. Lankester's efforts that this link with the British Women's Organisations has become a permanent feature. She has worked ungrudgingly and unsparingly, whenever necessary, to help us and get our views accepted. We know that in her we have a real friend who understands and is always eager to put forward the view of Indian women themselves. A new feature this year is the appointment of our own representative, Mrs Rama Rau, on the Liaison Committee in England. This has proved very helpful to the Committee and we must be grateful to Mrs Rama Rau for the efficient manner in which she has helped us.

The Annual Report is now sent to various women's organisations in different countries who are anxious to keep in permanent touch with us, and have on occasions asked us to lend our support to measures for which they want world wide sympathy. The New York Motion Picture League formed for the prevention of the production of films which give distorted views of life, and of the people of other countries, is anxious to keep in permanent touch with us and asked us for our support for a bill against compulsory block-making and blind-selling before the house of Representatives.

Mr Ekstrand, Director, Social Sections Questions of the League of Nations, visited India this year and public meetings were held for him and he met our representatives in the Constituencies where he went. Mr Butler of the International Labour Office, Geneva, who is now touring in India, has also been meeting our representatives at meetings which were arranged for him in different constituencies.

When Mrs S C. Mukerjee was in Java as Government of India Delegate to the Far Eastern Conference on Traffic, she created contacts with women's associations at Batavia and spoke at meetings regarding the work of the Conference at Batavia, Singapore, Pinang and Rangoon and the newspapers also published interviews reporting the work of the Conference

The International League on Peace and Freedom which is affiliated to the Liaison Group of British Women's Organisations asked us to send a representative to their Conference at Czechoslovakia in July. We are very fortunate that Begum Hamid Ali, our former Liaison Officer was able to attend and take a message from us. She has done invaluable work for us in many countries and our gratitude is due to her for all the time and trouble she has given to the work of our Conference wherever she has been during her travels. Having a woman of her personality, ability and charm to represent us has added greatly to our prestige.

Although the question of the status of women was discussed this year at the League of Nations and in spite of repeated requests, the Government of India did not appoint a representative Indian woman on the delegation to Geneva last September. Fortunately, Begum Hamid Ali was chosen by the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, along with Mrs Corbett Ashby to represent the subject of the status of women before the President of the League Assembly.

Begum Hamid Ali has also been fortunate in getting into touch with the women's associations of Cairo (Egypt), Denmark, Damascas (Syria), Istambul (Turkey), Bukharest (Roumania), Vienna (Austria), Luhocovitce and Prague (Czechoslovakia), Berlin (Germany), Tallinn (Estland) and in Geneva with many International organisations which practically represent all the organised women of the world. She also had the opportunity of making friendly contacts with the women of many other countries at the International Conference of Women for Peace and Friendship and a number of public meetings were arranged for her at which she spoke on the work of the A. I. W. C. and the All-Asian Women's Conference. Wherever Begum Hamid Ali went she conveyed the greetings of the A. I. W. C. and all the women's organisations have sent cordial greetings to the women

of India through her and have expressed a desire to come into a closer contact.

It is undoubtedly true that our main work lies in the regeneration of our own country and that we must concentrate on nation-building activities today. At the same time we must realise that as the most representative organ of India's women it is essential for us to increase and widen our contacts with women's organisations all over the world, who, each in its own way is striving to solve the complex problems which are the problems of humanity as a whole. It is only when misunderstandings are removed and bonds of real friendship and sympathetic understanding unite the people of the world, that we shall be able to see a way out of the misery and the wastage of human life which seems to be enveloping so many races today. Surely it is women who must lead and be torch-bearers in this path.

Report of Liaison Group in Great Britain co-operating with the All India Women's Conference

British Commonwealth League

Six Point Group

Women's Freedom League

**Women's International League (British Section)
for Peace and Freedom.**

I am grateful to the Committee of our Liaison Group of British women's societies which co-operate with your Conference for giving me a free hand with regard to the report of the past year's work, as they knew that I should have the immense privilege of meeting in person with your delegates at this annual session.

First then, I should like to express my great appreciation and gratitude to your Standing Committee for extending this wonderful invitation to me. As I had been obliged to refuse it twice before, your persistence in asking me has touched me deeply. I owe much to my own Group Committee for the help and encouragement which made it possible for me to come.

I am particularly delighted to be here in the year of the Presidency of your distinguished leader, the Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, for it was she who first suggested the formation of a permanent link between your Conference and the Group of British women's societies who had supported your demands for franchise which were put before the Parliamentary Joint Select Committee in

your name by herself and Begum Hamid Ali and Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi. It was a great joy to have her as the first Liaison Officer at your end and personally I owe much to her help and inspiration at the beginning of our work together. We know that under her leadership in the forthcoming year your Conference will go from strength to strength and that your members will take a vital part in the nation-building work of your great country.

Our co-operation with Begum Hamid Ali, who succeeded the Rajkumari as Liaison Officer, was no less happy. Her breadth of vision coupled with her ability for organisation and her gift of bringing her ideals into practical operation have filled us with admiration and we are sure, that now after her most interesting experiences in Egypt and Palestine and Turkey and many other countries in Europe she will bring to your Conference a rich experience which will be of inestimable value. While speaking of Begum Hamid Ali I should like to say how delighted the British Section of the Women's International League, one of the societies in our Liaison Group was that she was able to represent you at their international conference in Czecho-Slovakia last summer, when women from many different countries met to discover together new methods of bringing about a better order in the world and to search for practical means to combat the menace of war. I must tell you that Begum Hamid Ali made a deep impression on all who met her there, and I gather that she and her husband were quite the most popular people in Luhacovice, where the Congress was held! We were also delighted that she was able to be present at Geneva, while the subject of the Status of Women was under discussion by the League Assembly. I must not encroach on what she will report herself, but I felt bound to pay tribute to her work, first as Liaison Officer and then as your Foreign Correspondent. We were preparing to work her very hard as well as to give her a warm welcome, when she came to England but to our great regret she had to cancel her visit.

We were delighted that Mrs. Renuka Ray, whom we had got to know on her visit to England was chosen to fill her place as Liaison Officer when Begum Hamid Ali had to give it up, and our co-operation with her has also been of the very happiest kind. She has kept us in touch during the past year with your developments in a most efficient way and again as British Liaison Officer I owe much to her work.

We should like also to tell you of our appreciation of Mrs. Rama Rau's co-operation with us in London since you appointed her as your correspondent. She is a most valuable member of our Committee and has been able to interpret your point of view on several occasions in a helpful way. She gets many invitations to lecture and is a very acceptable speaker wherever she goes.

On looking back on our work during the past year it may not appear that anything spectacular has been achieved, but there is no question that this

special link with the women's movement in India, in which your Conference is the most influential organisation is of steadily increasing value. The Bulletin which we issue quarterly has had a much larger circulation this year, and my Committee is hoping that if sufficient funds are forthcoming, it may be possible to print it in future, as the work of duplicating so many copies, voluntarily undertaken by our Liaison organisations is becoming a heavy tax on those with small office staffs. The Bulletin finds its way, not only into many organisations and to a large number of individuals in Great Britain, but copies go to U. S. A., S. Africa, Australia, Egypt, and many of the countries in Europe. The special number dealing with the part that your women played in the elections, roused a good deal of interest and we were able to sell a large number as well as give them away to the press and to other influential people. Extracts from the Bulletin appear in newspapers and magazines all over the world and in this way interest and sympathy in your movement is steadily growing together with a greater understanding of your work and your many problems.

Wherever possible the Group calls the attention of writers and publishers to distorted accounts of Indian life and the Committee with the special help of Miss Agatha Harrison, was able to deal, as you asked, with the matter of the 'Ram of Jhansi' and obtain apologies which you felt able to accept.

Before I left England the Under Secretary of State for India kindly gave me an interview, and at the request of Begum Hamid Ali, Miss Harrison and I interviewed Mr. Nind who has recently been appointed to represent India on the League of Nations Opium Committee and we put before him the views of your Conference on the subject. He expressed to us his wish to be kept in touch with your work in this connection.

Mrs. Ray has urged our Committee to do propaganda work for your demand for an Enquiry into the Legal Status of Women in India. While we were disappointed that Begum Hamid Ali could not speak on this subject herself as we hoped she would be able to do if she came to England, I can assure your Conference that the matter will not be lost sight of, and the feminist organisations especially in our Group will not lose any opportunity of pressing the need for such an Enquiry. At a time when the subject has come to the fore at Geneva and is to be followed up it would seem to us to be of vital importance that this Enquiry should be set on foot as soon as possible. I have been asked to say that unless India is alive in this matter there is real danger of her being left out in the general Enquiry into the Status of Women that is to be made by a Special Committee of the League of Nations. My Committee have also asked me to tell you of a Scheme to hold a Special Women's Day when the claims of women were to be put forward simultaneously in many countries and to ask for your co-operation.

My Committee are greatly interested in the work of your women members of Provincial Councils and Assemblies and congratulate your movement on having some of their finest leaders in responsible Government posts. We rejoice especially on the appointment of Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit as the first Indian woman Cabinet Minister and we extend to her our warmest good wishes for the success of her work as Minister of Health for the United Provinces. To those Governments who have appointed women as Deputy Speakers and Parliamentary Secretaries we offer our congratulations. We shall watch the work of all these women with the deepest interest and sympathy and I hope to have the privilege of meeting with some of them while I am in your country.

We are very fortunate in having Mrs. Corbett Ashby still as Chairman of our Liaison Committee. She and Dr. Maude Royden, the first British guests to be honoured with an invitation to your annual session to represent our group, keep a vivid and abiding interest in your work. We are glad to think that our indefatigable Vice-Chairman Miss Daisy Solomon, was your guest the following year, while Miss Agatha Harrison, who is a never-failing source of help and inspiration, was with you last December. As Liaison Officer I also owe a debt of gratitude to Miss Todhunter of the British Commonwealth League, whose help is invaluable and to other members of Committee. Miss Maitland has taken the place of Miss Avabai Mehta as representing the Six Point Group. Mrs. Paul Sturge, who is a representative of the Women's International League, is visiting India early next year and is most anxious to see something of your work. Our links with your Conference are thus becoming stronger and more vital each year and I am hoping that as a result of my visit now to you that my work, if I remain as Liaison Officer, may be much more useful and fruitful than in the past. I have come to listen, to watch and to learn and I want you all to give me as much help as you can so that on my return I may be able faithfully to interpret what I have seen and heard.

One word in conclusion must reiterate what we tried to say last year in our report as to the future. At this time of chaos in the world when there are wars and rumours of wars, and hatred and suspicion are rife, it seems to us essential that women in all lands should hold out hands to each other and make a human barrier of friendship and understanding which will resist the tides of war. Many of us in the west are looking to you women of India with your fundamental belief in the power of non-violence to give a lead, and we believe that, immersed though you are in your own national problems, you will keep the vision unclouded of the part that you will play in international affairs when there is more power to your hands,

Grace Lankester
Liaison Officer in Great Britain.

Literacy Sub-committee

Miss Shantabai Daundkar

I have been asked to give a report of the literacy sub-committee for the whole year. I took charge of this committee only for three months and within this short period at my disposal I could not get information from all the constituencies as to how this question is being tackled by them in their respective areas. However, I have been able to collect information as to the work that is being done here in Bombay regarding this question.

In August 1936 the Bombay Literacy association had begun the work of giving education to the adults of the city. In the four statements A, B, C, D, you will get a statistical information about the classes started and maintained during August 1936 to the end of June 1937.

Statements A and B - These statements give statistics about the classes maintained during each month, the number of adult pupils and average attendance in all the classes on each of the four sides. The total number of classes opened on the Marathi side was 27, but owing to various difficulties such as low attendance, etc., 8 classes had to be closed in the middle and thus only 19 classes remained in existence at the end of the period. On the Gujarati side also 14 classes were opened, but two of them had to be closed down. On the Hindi and Urdu sides all classes opened are still continuing. The attendance at the classes is on an average between 50 to 60 per cent of the number on rolls.

Statement D gives an idea of the results of the tests taken in the months of April and May, when the majority of the classes had run for a fairly sufficient period. It will be seen from the statement A that the real work of the starting of the classes began in the month of September 1936. It was well on its way in October. The starting of the communal riots in the city, however, in the middle of October, dislocated the whole organisation to an alarming extent threatening for the time being the very existence of the whole scheme. In fact, during the months of October, November and even December, the attendance at the classes was very irregular and unpunctual and, therefore, very little solid work could be carried on during that period. It was only from January that the work of the classes was restored to normal. It will thus be seen that the adult pupils who submitted themselves to the test were under regular instruction for three to four months only. The results of the test, therefore, as given in the statement D must be interpreted in the light of this fact. Out of 1,900 pupils on rolls in April and May, 709 i.e. more than one-third of the pupils on rolls submitted themselves

to the test. A very remarkable feature about the Hindi classes has come to our notice in the month of April. There were in these classes about 600 pupils on rolls and out of them 270 i. e. about 45 p. c. submitted themselves to the test. Out of these 270, 92 have passed the A class test, which is considered to be test showing ability to read and write well. The enthusiasm of the Hindi-speaking people for adult instruction is indeed remarkable and considering the small population of these people, compared with the population of the other three languages, the fact that nearly one-third of the number of adults under instruction at these classes should come from that community is noteworthy.

Statement C gives an idea about the expenditure incurred on the maintenance of the 66 classes at present conducted by the Association. The total expenditure, per month, works out to Rs. 900 or so. Adding to that about Rs. 80 p. m. for the supervision, clerical help, printing and stationery, etc., the expenditure will go up to about Rs. 1000 per month. According to the present scale of expenditure of Rs. 1000 per month, it is estimated that for the remaining nine months of the year, not less than Rs. 9000 will be required for maintaining the classes at present in existence. A sum of about Rs. 1000 will be required for distribution of books and slates, etc., from time to time to the adults taking instruction in these classes. Further there is a pressing demand for the free supply of suitable literature to the adults and for this purpose, the Association has to incur about Rs. 2,400 in order to get such literature prepared, printed and published. The free distribution of such literature among adults is absolutely necessary for the attainment and also for the retention of literacy. The Association has not yet been able to do anything in fulfilment of this aim for lack of funds. It may be pointed out here that out of this estimated amount of Rs. 2,400, Rs. 1,065 have, as stated elsewhere already, been received from the Municipality, but utilised by the Association to meet the current year's expenses and it will have to make up that amount in the current year and to utilise it for the purpose for which it has been earmarked.

The total expenditure for the current financial year ending March 1938, will therefore be, Rs. 15,000 as shown below --

| | | |
|----|---|------------|
| 1 | Spent already over the existing classes.. | Rs. 2,600 |
| 2 | Required for the existing classes during the remaining part of the year | Rs. 9,000. |
| 3. | Required for distribution of slates, pencils etc., to adults under instruction . .. | Rs. 1,000 |
| 4 | Required for the publication and free distribution of suitable literature, etc., . .. | Rs. 2,400 |

Rs. 15,000.

As against this, the association will be getting a grant of Rs. 5,000/- from the corporation, leaving it to make up the remaining Rs 10,000/- from other sources, mainly by contributions from generous public and charitable institutions

There is a demand from the public to start 10 more classes but owing to the shortness of funds the association can not open these classes. It is certain that more classes could be started if proper propaganda work is carried on and serious efforts made in that direction. Within a couple of month, the association can very well raise the number of literacy classes to 100 and the number of pupils on the rolls therein to 3000, if only sufficient funds be 'forthcoming' the starting of these 34 extra classes and maintaining them for six months or so means an extra expenditure of about Rs 2,500/-

In giving the above estimates for the maintenance of the present number of classes which are 66 in number, as well as of organising 34 new classes, so as to bring the total to 100, with 3,000 adults under instruction, the total expenditure for the current year will be Rs 15,000/- for the classes in existence and Rs 2,500/- for fresh classes to be opened making a total of Rs 17,500/-

At present, each class is held for one hour at night. The adult pupils attending the classes attend neither regularly nor punctually. The result is that those who come late, or are irregular require a longer period for being coached up. This has an effect of delaying the general progress of the whole class. The educational sub-committees appointed by the working committee of the association are of opinion that illiterate adult regularly attending the class one hour daily should attain literacy within six months. Owing, however to the irregular and unpunctual attendance of the adults the classes take nearly double the time, that is, about a year for preparing the majority of the adults to the standard expected. It has, therefore, been proposed to overcome the result of irregular and unpunctual attendance on the part of the adults by extending the daily meeting period of the classes from one hour to one hour and a half or even to two hours. In that case the honorarium paid to the teaching staff will have also to be increased to a certain extent.

Again, to make the work of the classes attractive and interesting, with a view to securing more regular and punctual attendance, it has been suggested that magic lantern shows, cinema shows and lectures, etc., should be included in the daily work of the classes. All those suggestions are no doubt excellent, but in order that they might be put into practice, funds must be forthcoming and if we are fortunate enough to collect sufficient money for the mere maintenance of the existing classes in the manner in which they are being run at present, then efforts will have to be made further to secure fresh funds for the purpose of giving effect to the several suggestions put forth hereinbefore for the enlargement, improvement and consolidation of the working of the Association. From this report you

will come to know the present situation and its activities and its immediate need, mainly financial. The Association has approached the Government to grant a substantial aid from the Provincial Revenues, to the extent of about Rs 10,000 per year.

I have already issued a circular in which I requested to supply the following information:—

(a) Whether Primary Education is compulsory in your area, if it is compulsory whether it is enforced by prosecution or persuasion; whether vocational education is given, if so from what standard, whether handicraft is taught and whether it is free.

(b) What steps are being taken by the Government or by Municipalities in case of adult education and the number of adult educational institutions for women in your area; whether there are any circulating libraries for women and whether they take advantage of such libraries, whether there are any night schools for adults and if so what method is adopted in giving them education, and what books are being used; whether broadcasting is made use of in your area regarding adult education.

(c) Whether the Municipalities, Mill and factory owners are conducting any classes for their employees or giving any grant to such classes conducted for their employees.

If I can get the above information from all the constituencies I will be able to put it before the meeting of the Standing Committee at Nagpur. It will give some directions to the Standing Committee on what lines it should work as regards this question.

From the report of the Bombay Literacy Association you will come to know that if proper efforts were made it is not very difficult to conduct classes for adult education for women.

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STATEMENT A

Number of adult Classes maintained by the Bombay City Literacy Association month by month.

| Side | 1936 | | | | 1937 | | | | | | |
|-----------|---------|---------|-------|--------|--------|---|----|----|----|----|----|
| | August; | Septem- | Octo- | Novem- | Decem- | January; February; March; April; May, June; July. | | | | | |
| | ber; | ber; | ber; | ber; | ber, | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Marathi. | 1 | 16 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 24 | 24 | 22 | 21 | 21 | 19 |
| Gujarati. | - | 2 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 12 |
| Hindi. | - | 1 | 8 | 8 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 18 | 18 | 18 |
| Urdu | 1 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 11 | 17 |
| Total | 2 | 22 | 44 | 47 | 52 | 51 | 51 | 49 | 56 | 62 | 66 |

STATEMENT B. Number of adults in classes Maintained by the Bombay City Literacy Association.

ALL-INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

| STATEMENT B. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------|------------|-------|------------|-------|------------|---------|------------|-------|------------|-------|------------|-----------|------------|-------|------------|-------|------------|-----------|------------|-------|------------|-------|------------|-------|------------|-------|------------|-------|------------|-------|------------|-------|------------|--|--|-------|--|--|
| Number of adults in classes Maintained by the Bombay City Literacy Association. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Side, | 1936 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1937 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | August | | | Septem-ber | | | October | | | Novem-ber | | | Decem-ber | | | January | | | Febru-ary | | | March | | | April | | | May | | | June | | | July | | | | | |
| | R. A. | | | R. A. | | | R. A. | | | R. A. | | | R. A. | | | R. A. | | | R. A. | | | R. A. | | | R. A. | | | R. A. | | | R. A. | | | R. A. | | | R. A. | | |
| | Rolls | Attendance | Rolls | Attendance | Rolls | Attendance | Rolls | Attendance | Rolls | Attendance | Rolls | Attendance | Rolls | Attendance | Rolls | Attendance | Rolls | Attendance | Rolls | Attendance | Rolls | Attendance | Rolls | Attendance | Rolls | Attendance | Rolls | Attendance | Rolls | Attendance | Rolls | Attendance | Rolls | Attendance | | | | | |
| Marathi | 47 | 37 | 590 | 422 | 1110 | 679 | 974 | 280 | 1037 | 496 | 937 | 503 | 843 | 536 | 803 | 459 | 732 | 403 | 704 | 271 | 640 | 307 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gujarati | " | " | 90 | 68 | 315 | 196 | 280 | 150 | 248 | 143 | 364 | 220 | 361 | 184 | 425 | 202 | 379 | 170 | 357 | 196 | 365 | 198 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hindi | " | " | 25 | 21 | 333 | 262 | 293 | 214 | 493 | 318 | 444 | 324 | 426 | 295 | 437 | 324 | 587 | 434 | 615 | 455 | 644 | 473 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Urdu | 10 | 8 | 83 | 63 | 129 | 92 | 127 | 48 | 153 | 64 | 291 | 78 | 194 | 87 | 194 | 98 | 198 | 95 | 311 | 190 | 362 | 227 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 57 | 45 | 788 | 574 | 1887 | 1229 | 1674 | 692 | 1931 | 1021 | 2036 | 1125 | 1824 | 1102 | 1859 | 1083 | 1896 | 1102 | 1987 | 1112 | 2011 | 1205 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

STATEMENT C.

| Side | No. of Classes | Pupils in June 1937 | | No. of teachers in June 1937 | Monthly Expenditure |
|----------|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| | | On Rolls | Average Attendance | | |
| Marathi | 18 | 640 | 307 | 28 | Rs. 279/- |
| Gujarati | 13 | 249 | 190 | 17 | Rs. 189/- |
| Hindi | 18 | 644 | 473 | 25 | Rs. 245/- |
| Urdu | 17 | 362 | 227 | 20 | Rs. 208/- |
| Total | 66 | 1,895 | 1,179 | 90 | Rs. 921/- |

STATEMENT D

No. of Adults who passed the Test Examination held in April and
May 1937

| Side | No. of adults who passed the test in — | | | |
|----------|--|-----------|-----------|-------|
| | Class A | Class B : | Class C : | Total |
| Marathi | 12 | 134 | 127 | 273 |
| Gujarati | 12 | 21 | 48 | 81 |
| Hindi | 62 | 108 | 100 | 270 |
| Urdu | 6 | 49 | 30 | 85 |
| Total | 92 | 312 | 305 | 709 |

A Class means general reading ability equal to that of a pupil of the ordinary Standard II.

B Class means general reading ability equal to that of a pupil of the ordinary Standard I.

C Class means general reading ability equal to that of a pupil in Infants' Class.

Labour Sub-Committee

Miss J. E. Copeland

The work done during the first half of 1937 may be summed up under two headings.

1. Maternity Benefit Act

(a) Negotiations are taking place in Bengal towards the submitting of a Maternity Benefit Act for that province.

(b) In Delhi the Bombay Act has already been made applicable from 1st January 1937.

We have been in touch with the Authorities and hope to secure certain desirable amendments when the rules under the Acts are issued. In addition they have agreed to our proposal that a woman Factory Inspector should be appointed in an honorary capacity and have expressed their willingness to accept our nominee.

2. (a) Coal Mines: We have approached the Government of India with certain proposals in this connection.

We suggested that the Central Government give a grant from their hand-loom industries fund to foster hand-loom weaving in the coal areas.

(b) We further suggested that the Central Government should urge the local Governments in Bengal and Bihar to use part of their Rural Uplift Allocation for uplift work in the coal fields.

(c) We urged that a woman member should be appointed to the Jharia mines' Board of Health.

All three suggestions have been acted upon.

(a) The Central Government asked the Bihar Government to submit a scheme to the Industries Board. They did so, but the Board did not sanction a grant as they held that the Handloom Industry fund should not be used for a mining area. The scheme was however much too elaborate.

(b) The Central Govt. has now approached the Bengal Govt. and the Bihar Govt., suggesting that part of their Rural Uplift grants should be specially allocated to the coal areas. The local Governments have the matter under consideration and their answers are awaited, (Information in this connection has been asked for by your Convener).

(c) A woman member has been appointed to the Jharia mines Board of Health.

As announced at the annual session at Ahmedabad, all women underground workers were to be withdrawn from 1st July 1937. In June the

Government of India decided to postpone the date of complete withdrawal of the women until October 1st 1937. A statement with regard to this emergency was sent by your Convener to the Hon Secretary on 18th June 1937 and should be incorporated in this report now

At my suggestion the half-yearly meeting of the Standing Committee passed the following resolution and forwarded it to (1) Secretary, Industries and Labour Dept., Government of India, Simla. (2) Secretary, Bihar Government Ranchi (3) Secretary, Bengal Government Darjeeling.

"The A I W C, while welcoming the action taken by the Industries and Labour Department of the Government of India in approaching the Bengal and Bihar Governments with reference to the situation in the coalfields regrets that in spite of repeated requests made by the A I W C in January 1935, January 1936 and January 1937 to the Government of India and the local Governments concerned, with reference to the provision of alternative employment for women withdrawn from underground work in mines and other matters affecting the welfare of the miners and their families no such provision has yet been made, and that, on the contrary, the date for complete elimination of women underground workers has been twice postponed

"The A I W C. urges the Government of India to refuse to consider any further postponement to encourage the local Governments to take immediate steps to provide some means of livelihood for the women other than underground work in the mines, and to suggest, initiate or foster ways and means of securing for the miner an adequate living wage and improved living conditions'

During the later part of the year:—

(a) A lady Factory Inspector-part time-has been appointed to help to administer the Maternity Benefit Act in Delhi Province She will begin her duties on March 1st 1938

(b) Towards the end of 1937 a creche for young children of women labourers was established in the Delhi Cloth Mills

(c) A grant of Rs 30,000 to be spent over a period of 3 years, has been made by the Central Government from the Rural Development Fund, to the Bihar Government, to finance a scheme for training in other occupations, women withdrawn from the mines The women were all withdrawn with effect from 1st October 1937 The Convener sent a letter thanking the Secretary, Labour Department of the Government of India, for the provision to benefit the women in the mine areas and has received a reply in which the Labour Department express their appreciation of the message sent by the Labour Sub-Committee.

Common Language Sub-Committee

Miss D B Hasan

In accordance with part (b) and (c) of the Common Language Resolution passed at Ahmedabad, the Convener sent a circular letter to the Registrars of the sixteen Indian Universities and to the Directors of the Departments of Education of the eleven Provinces of British India and seventy-two Indian States. Acknowledgements have been received from six Universities, two Education Directors of British India and six Indian States. I hope and trust that the others too (though they have sent no replies) have bestowed upon our letter the consideration it deserves.

In pursuance of part (a) of the above-mentioned resolution a circular letter was issued to the members of the Common Language Sub-Committee inviting them to suggest ways and means "to encourage the study of Hindustani". The object was to draw up a scheme on the basis of these suggestions for the benefit of the S C members of the various Constituencies. Only three members out of seven responded but these gave some very valuable and practical suggestions. Our scheme has been prepared and circulated to the Standing Committee Members. A circular letter was also sent to the Standing Committee Members drawing their attention to the common Language Resolution passed at the Ahmedabad Session and exhorting them to do their utmost for the spread of Hindustani. The letter also requested the members to inform the Convener of any work that their Constituency had done in this direction, and that if nothing had been attained as yet, to make a start as early as possible. Five replies were received to this Circular out of thirty-eight Constituencies. This is not very encouraging. I appeal once more to all the Standing Committee members to go ahead with this work and make a beginning without any further delay. Let the S. C. members make (for this year at least) all other work subordinate to this most urgent call on their zeal for progress and reform.

Health Sub-Committee

Dr Malinibai Sukthankar

In submitting this report, I must express my regret that it is not a more comprehensive and all India report as none of the constituencies have submitted their Health Committee Reports though, I understand, that such Committees have been formed in most of our constituencies.

We had however collected a lot of information regarding Medical Inspection

in Schools by sending out a questionnaire and the investigations thus made during the two years embolden us to say that periodical Medical Inspection of schools supplemented by remedial measures and compulsory physical training, is a very effective means of improving the health of school children. It is gratifying to note that Medical Sub-Committees have been appointed by some constituencies to go into the question of the problem of child health. The Bombay Constituency has appointed a Care Committee of influential women to visit schools in the labour area with a view to noting down health conditions of school children therein and bringing to the notice of authorities and parents concerned, all those circumstances which are unfavourable to the children's physical growth. I wish earnestly that all the rest of the constituencies stir themselves up to work on these lines as early as possible.

A few months back the Governments of Bombay and the Central Provinces appointed Physical Education Inquiry Committees with a view to finding out the ways and means of improving the health of pupils. The report on the question of the compulsory Physical Education of pupils in the Bombay Presidency will be out shortly. I think we should request Provincial Governments to make Medical Inspection in schools compulsory as it is essential for the success of compulsory Physical Training in Schools. In fact we cannot introduce it without Medical Inspection. Periodical Medical Inspection in schools reveals those defects and diseases that come in the way of physical growth. The Physical Instructors, parents and authorities are informed of these defects. Besides, the Physical instructor has to know of those children in whose case physical exercises are harmful on account of some disease. Another suggestion that we shall have to make to the various Governments is to provide adequate space for the children's play, games, drill, etc., and proper school buildings with spacious playing-grounds.

The next important factor which needs investigation is mal-nutrition. You remember that last year we congratulated the Simla Municipality on the successful introduction of a scheme to supply milk to poor and weak children during school hours. I am told that the Sialkote Municipality has followed this example with equal success. The Bombay Municipality has also sanctioned a sum of Rs. 2 lakhs in the next year's Budget for supply of milk to poor weak children in the City. We hope that other constituencies will follow this soon and we may get a chance of congratulating them also.

Several cities in the West whose population is more than a lac have made Medical Inspection of school children compulsory under their respective Education Acts. We should request the various Provincial Governments to do the same in the interest of the health of school children as it has attained national importance in all Western countries of Europe and America.

At my request the Medical Inspector, Bombay Municipal Schools, has supplied me with very valuable statistical information. It shows that there is a gradual regeneration in the physical growth of children and check over the prevalence of common defects of school children as a result of periodical school medical inspection, and of the institution of a special School Clinic at the K. E. M. Hospital. These figures would have been more satisfactory, had there been adequate school medical staff and one more School Clinic in the Southern part of the City. The introduction of nutrition to the undernourished numbering about 20 per cent, among the 80,000 school children in Bombay will indeed benefit the child world and increase their vitality and resisting power to combat disease.

For the next year we hope to take up the question of dietetics and physical culture and I want full co-operation from the constituencies. I shall be issuing a questionnaire on this very soon. I hope that you will all help me in the matter. I once more appeal to the constituencies to make earnest attempts in their particular areas to raise the standard of health of our children. The co-operation of the constituencies and their co-ordinated efforts are essential to achieve our goal. I shall feel highly indebted to the constituencies if they will kindly keep me informed of the progress of the School Child Welfare Movement and make useful suggestions to make it successful. We should not forget that on the sound health of our children depends the future glory of our society and nation. In fact I may say that an All-India Committee can achieve nothing unless it is helped by the different units all over India.

Anti-Child Marriage Sub-Committee

Mrs Sarojini Mehta

As Convener of the above Committee, I got into touch with the other members of the Committee and invited their opinion on Mr. B Das's bill in the Central Legislature to amend the Sarda Act., and also requested them to send in their suggestions for the Line of work to be taken up by the Committee. Only one member sent a satisfactory reply. I also requested the Bombay presidency Social Reform Association and the Gujarat Social Reform Association to send their opinions with regard to the said bill. Both the Associations sent their opinions as well as new suggestions. The members of the subcommittee were requested to send information of any work they had done by way of propaganda. At the half-yearly meeting of the Standing Committee held at Phaltan, I was asked to write a brochure on the Evils of Child Marriage, & first get it printed as an article in a newspaper. Accordingly I wrote an article in the local paper 'Hitvad' and then got 200 reprints from the same paper. These reprints were to be circulated to all the constituencies for translation in the vernacular and for distribution amongst the masses.

Indigenous Industries Sub-Committee.

Shrimati Jayashri Raiji.

I am glad to report that the members on my Sub-committee, and the various constituencies have done useful work in helping the sale of Indigenous articles. Mrs Kamalamma Dassappa of the Mahila Seva Samaj, Banglore, in her report informs me that the Annual Khadi and Swadeshi Exhibition organised by the Mahila Seva Samaj during the Deepavali week, and opened by Dr Muthulakshmi Reddy, was a great success. Articles from many parts of India were exhibited. The Mahila Seva Samaj keeps a Swadeshi store. There is a Ladies' Co-operative Society attached to the Samaj and many ladies have taken shares. A small portion of the share money is invested in purchasing Swadeshi articles, chiefly, things required by School children.

Mrs Barkatrai from Aurangabad informs that H. H. the Princess of Berar performed the opening ceremony of the women's section of the Home industries of Aurangabad which would henceforth serve as an emporium for home-made articles. The Paper industry of Daulatabad, a Suburb of Aurangabad, has made very good progress due to the enthusiasm of Taraqqi-e-Dastakari and the financial encouragement accorded to it by the Nizam's Government.

The S C member from New Delhi Shrimati J. K. Zutshi writes in her report that women have been supplied with cotton for spinning it into yarn and this in turn has been woven into cloth and Durries which have been sold.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur writes to say that she had a Swadeshi Stall in Simla throughout the season and was able to effect sales—mostly in khadi—of about Rs. 1500/-. The stall also contained Indian hair-oil, soaps, tooth powder, scents, essences, photo albums, visiting cards and notepapers. A demand for Swadeshi has now been created and several of the members have bought shares in a firm called "Hindustan House" which it is hoped will be able to give a Branch in Simla next year. Rajkumari expects to have a similar Branch at Jullundur also next year.

Rani Rajwade opened the Swadeshi Exhibition arranged by the Bombay Constituency at the time of their Local Conference. Also the 'Art In Home' Exhibition organized by the Gujarati Stree Sahakari Mandal, which was opened by the Premier, Hon Mr. B. G. Kher, was a great success. Exhibits from all over India were sent to this Exhibition. With the display of Swadeshi materials of artistic merit and simple designs, the Exhibition aimed at arousing in the people a desire to have their homes equipped in a manner to be truly like Indian Homes.

It is gratifying to know that great impetus is given to Indigenous Industries by the various Governments, who are pledged to the use of Swadeshi articles in general and products of cottage industries in particular. On the occasion of the All-India Industries Conference to be held in Lahore, the Ministers and departmental heads of the Congress provinces will confer among themselves regarding the development of cottage industries and their marketing. It is intended to form a common board for marketing the products of one province in other provinces and thus develop industries

Harijan Sub-Committee

X Mrs. Brijlal Nehru.

The work of the removal of untouchability has progressed satisfactorily during the year. The advent of Congress into power in the seven Provinces has given a great fillip to the work of the Harijan Sevak Sangh. Most of these Provinces have laid aside in their budgets certain sums of money to be spent on the education and general uplift of the Harijans. This will lead to a general raising of their standard and status of life.

Travancore has responded splendidly to the Temple entry proclamation. Thousands of Savarnas are going to the temples in company with the Harijans and untouchability in actual fact has been removed from that part of India. The Harijan Sevak Sangh is carrying a temple entry campaign in Cochin and British Malabar similar to the one organised in Travancore before the proclamation. The response in British Malabar from the Savarnas is great and it is hoped that the efforts of the Sangh will soon be crowned with success in that area also.

The contribution of the constituencies of the A. I. W. Conference to the work of the removal of untouchability has been rather disappointing. Only five constituencies mention Harijan work in their annual reports. The names are Bengal-East, Baroda, Calcutta, Delhi and Konkan.

Out of these, Bengal East, Calcutta and Delhi have been carrying on Schools for the Harijan Children for sometime. All the Schools have made good progress during the year. The Calcutta School got a grant of Rs. 1200 from the Municipal Corporation and is a big school with 83 pupils including men, women and children. Two girls from the Delhi school have passed the Middle School Examination and are now undergoing a course in technical training.

Baroda has made two Harijan Women, members of their Association. The relations between Harijan and other members are reported to be very cordial. It is a great step forward and I hope Baroda's example will be followed by other constituencies.

Konkan successfully managed to have a social gathering to which both Harijan and caste women were invited.

The convener of the Harijan sub-committee toured through the Kathiawad States. The response to the tour from the Princes and the public was very encouraging. The disabilities of the Harijan were brought to their notice and in some states some of the disabilities have been removed already. The financial condition of the Harijan Sevak Sangh is poor and requires attention. I collected ten thousands rupees in small sums during the year. Thousands were approached and nearly 1000 contributed to this little sum. I appeal to the delegates who come from all parts of India to exert themselves more for this noble cause. It needs all their help and active support and I do hope that in years to come the A. I. W. C. will be able to give better account of themselves in connection with this great reform.

Report of the Special Committee on the legal disabilities of women.

Mrs. S. N. Ray.

It was decided at the Ahmedabad session that this Committee should consult lawyers and try to draw up a comprehensive bill regarding inheritance and marriage on the lines of the Baroda Act. Some lawyers were consulted as regards the bill to be drawn up. The majority of them were of opinion that due to the intricate personal laws of Hindus and Muslims it would not be possible to deal with the whole matter in one comprehensive bill. It is only if a uniform system of laws were introduced into the country that this could be done. Under present circumstances this is quite impossible as public opinion is not only unused to the idea but a storm of protest and indignation would result from orthodox elements of both the Hindus and Muslims at the very mention of doing away with the religious background of their laws. Eventually however it must be a rational and not a religious basis on which the laws of the country are framed.

The lawyers are of opinion that in regard to Hindu law alone, intricate legal details and technicalities stand in the way and are likely to lead to many anomalies later on. The only possible way, if the introduction of a uniform system of laws for the country cannot be considered, is to deal with each

aspect of reform in Hindu law e. g., property rights, marriage rights etc., by separate measures.

At present the lawyers advise that either we should have separate bills introduced into the legislature on different aspects of reform urgently needed by private members or persuade the Government to introduce and sponsor such measures. In the past both these methods have been unsuccessful. This conference has tried hard to persuade Government to appoint a Commission to investigate and draw up a bill. The fate of private members' bills in regard to Social reform measures is only too wellknown. They either do not come up in the ballot at all or even if they are considered, they are so whittled down in Select Committees that they do not serve the purpose for which they were first introduced. The act recently passed on the inheritance rights of Hindu widows and the fate of this measure in Select Committee until it was presented in its present form is only too evident an example of this.

It must be acknowledged that propoganda work is still essential in order to bring a change of heart in this matter. The reactionary element is up in arms against the slightest change and they will put up an adamant opposition at this juncture.

Changes suggested in Inheritance and property rights affect vested interests so deeply, that to obtain what we want will not be at all easy. It is quite impossible for us to expect immediate success, but there is no cause for despondency either. With the help of the women in the Provincial Legislatures we should try and obtain the support of all Provincial Legislatures to this measure of reform, as this will bear great weight on the Central Legislature. A continuous and continued agitation is necessary. We should not pause in our efforts but should go ahead with greater enthusiasm and fuller determination that however long it may take, we shall win in the end.

Report of the Legislation Sub-Committee

Mrs. Asaf Ali.

The year 1937 saw the inauguration of Provincial Autonomy and the Standing Committee drew the attention of the Legislators and the Ministries to the social reform programme of the All India Women's Conference, with a view to enable legislation on the lines suggested in it

The Legislation Sub-Committee sent a circular letter to all the Women Legislators in the provinces requesting them to undertake the introduction of Bills which may tackle the several problems that await solution, special measures dealing with women's legal and economic disabilities. It also requested them to furnish the Committee "With information regarding the specific work done by women representatives, so that the Conference may be in a position to keep a record for our interest, information and benefit of the legislative activities of women M. L. As."

The Committee has kept a close watch on the several non-official Bills introduced in the Central Legislature to which the Conference had lent its whole-hearted support and which to a very large extent had been inspired by the ceaseless propaganda of the Conference in favour of Social Legislation. These Bills were (1) Mr. Deshmukh's Hindu Women's Right to Property Bill, (2) Mr H M. Abdullah's Moslem Personal Law (Shariat) Bill, (3) Mr. Abdullah's Muslem Dissolution of Marriage Bill, (4) Mr B Dass's Child Marriage Restraint Bill and (5) Mr Lal Chand Navalrai's Child Marriage Restraint Bill

Of these Mr. Deshmukh's Bill was passed on 4 2 1937 and Mr. Abdullah's Bill in September 1937. Although both of them have failed to satisfy the Conference, in view of the non-radical nature of legislation, they are steps in the right direction. The other bills are pending and will await their chance in the 1938 Winter Session of the Central Assembly

Due to party politics and other considerations of a purely political nature, these non-official Bills seldom receive opportunities for speedy disposal, and the Convener has to constantly remind the movers to find ways and means to expedite matters. This proves helpful as the legislators feel that the All India Women's Conference keeps itself interested in the measures introduced and does not merely pass resolutions in support of these measures

The convener at the suggestion of Mrs M. E. Cousins, President of the All India Women's Conference for 1937, and in conjunction with the Delhi Branch of the A I W. C., arranged a reception to meet women M L As. from the various provinces in March 37, at which the President, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu and prominent leaders of the All India Women's Conference spoke and acquainted them with the nature of changes the Conference desired and thought are essential for the progress of the country

Report of the Franchise Sub-Committee.

Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade

The Half yearly report of the Franchise Sub-Committee for the year 1937 which was submitted to the Standing Committee at their half yearly meeting at Phaltan and which has since been circulated to the Members of the Standing Committee, contains information collected in connection with the general election of February 1937. For ready reference I shall just recall to your mind the points on which information was called for

- (1) The number of women who stood for election in a given area
 - (a) for the Provincial Assembly
 - (b) for the Provincial Upper House
- (2) The number of women who stood for
 - (a) Reserve seats for women.
 - (b) for Genral Seats &
 - (c) for Muslim General Seats.
- (3) The Percentage of women voters in a given area who exercised their votes by giving to the Polls.
- (4) The Number of women who have succeeded
 - (a) as independent candidates &
 - (b) those who were put up by different parties

Besides the above queries Standing Com. Members were requested (A) to lay stress on the specific nature of the handicap felt by women voters and candidates and (B) to let the sub-com. know how far the system of Communal Electorates had affected their position and placed them at a disadvantage. They were also requested to find out if the lack of sufficient number of women's booth had any effect on the percentage of women who had polled their votes.

The information on these points supplied by the Members of the Standing Committee, was in some cases insufficient, as official figures were not available before July 1937. Since the Half yearly meeting, the Govts. of the various provinces were requested to supply official information regarding the above, which they have done. Detailed and accurate information on the first four queries is thus now in hand. It would be interesting to note that the percentage of women who voted was 19.3 to 80% and that 130 women stood for election throughout India.

Two questionnaires were sent to the All India women's Conference by the

International Alliance of women for suffrage and Equal Citizenship in June '37. These two questionnaires were:

- (1) On the citizenship and political rights of women in extra European countries with restricted or no form of Women Suffrage
- (2) To provide the basis for a History of the Women Suffrage movement

The draft answer sheets to the two questionnaires were submitted to the Standing Committee at the Half yearly meeting, where amendments to some of the replies were suggested. These have now been incorporated in the final answer sheets. (Certain words however have been altered to ensure accuracy.) The answer sheets have already been sent to the Hon. Organising Secretary for necessary action, if any.

As required in questionnaire number two, opinions of prominent men and women workers in the suffrage movement were asked for. As there is no suffrage movement in this country similar to that in the West, the Committee had to seek opinions from women workers and men sympathisers in the women's cause. Of the fifty odd persons so requested, about six people had sent their views with regard to the women's movement as it exists in this country to-day, etc., as also their opinion as to what its effects will be on the future life of the nation. These six persons were Col Kunvar Shamsheersingh, Sir Harisingh Gour, Mrs Tarabai Premchand, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Mrs. Hansa Mehta, and Mrs Ambalal Sarabhai. Those who have replied after the half yearly meeting are, Col Sir K N Haksar, Sir Akbar Hyderi, Dr. R. P. Paranjape, Lady Nilkanth, Sir Shafad Ahmed and Sir Mirza Ismail. Others have written in fullest sympathy with the women's cause, predicting for it a brilliant future.

A detailed account of the reception organised by the A. I. W. C. to the then elected M. L. As has already appeared in the half yearly report. As also details about the various items mentioned above.

Before the half yearly meeting, among the various heads on which information was invited, one was whether communal electorates have affected the women's position. Reply to this query was sent by only Calcutta and Oudh, both of which have already appeared in the half yearly report, but they are being given here for ready reference.

Calcutta— "Communal electorate among men is imaginable under certain special circumstances. As regards women their problems are merely the same among all communities and it cannot be said that women of one community have in the past aggrandised on the rights and liberties of their sisters of other communities. Women's problems

are mostly social, and except in the town, the women of all communities are almost as backward. Further the seats given to women both general and reserved, are but few. So, in my opinion, communal representation among women should be withdrawn, or the number of seats general and reserved."

Oudh.— "I may say that the real difficulty lies in the fact of voters reaching the polling Booths in order to record their votes. This will only improve when the voters themselves evince an interest in their right of franchise. This has been more evident in the case of Muslim women who are extremely reluctant to go to the polling Booths. The same can be applied to them in the matter of communal electorates. If there were no seats reserved for Muslim women I do not think that the five women who stood for Muslim seats would have had much chance in general elections—(non-communal)—the reason being that they would not have been able to approach the masses and done propoganda work as against their Hindu sisters who are more keen and enterprising than the Muslim women. I am sorry to have this opinion but the last elections have been a great lesson to me and I realise that a long time is needed before Muslim women can stand on their feet and fight an election against their Hindu sisters in a non-communal election."

The reply from Oudh was rather unexpected as this constituency was until before the election a strong supporter of joint electorates. The St. Com. member however still favours joint electorates, though in her opinion considering the condition of Muslim women it would be in their interest to have communal electorates.

In this connection I need hardly remind you of the fact, that ever since the A I W. C. has taken up the question of franchise it has been consistent in its demand for Adult Franchise, based on a system of joint i.e. Non-communal Electorates. Before the new constitution (1935) became law, we accepted certain expedients as a temporary measure, as Adult Franchise with joint electorates was not considered possible to be introduced in this country just yet, for lack of agreement on that point among the minorities. The Sub-Committee however is glad to find that certain sections of the latter are now asking for joint electorates. Notable among these are, "The Muslim Azzad League" which has recently voted complete independence for India as its goal and in favour of the joint electorate system."

The seventh annual session of U. P. Jamaitul Ansar Conference, and the Momin Conference was held during October at Lucknow. The last session of the latter was attended by 80,000 persons. At the last sitting of the Jamaitul Ansar important resolutions demanding Adult Franchise were passed

The Shia conference presided over by Sir Vazir Hassan has also voted in favour of joint electorates

Besides the above, the Ahmedabad Municipality has also very recently voted in favour of Joint Electorates. That there should be joint electorates to the Village Panchayats with reservation of seats for Muslim and depressed classes on a population basis, is stated to have been the majority view of the members of the Bombay Congress Legislative party, as expressed at their meeting held at the Congress house, with the Hon. Mr. B. G. Kher, the Prime Minister in the Chair.

Recently the Standing Committee Members from the state constituencies were requested to send information on the following points:

- (1) Is there any franchise in the State ?
- (2) If so, how far has it been extended, i. e.
 - (a) For Municipal purposes only or
 - (b) Legislative purposes as well
- (3) Do men and women have the same franchise?
- (4) What is the basis of franchise for both ?
- (5) Where Legislatures exist, what is the position of women in it ?
- (6) Are there any women serving on

| | | |
|---|---|--------------------|
| Municipalities, Local Boards and Legislatures | } | Where these exist. |
|---|---|--------------------|

Up to the 20th December, replies have been received from Kolhapur, Cochin, Indore, Baroda, Mysore, Phaltan and Gwalior. These have been tabulated as under.

| Area. | Is there any franchise in the State ? | How far does the fran- chise extend ? Whether for Municipal or Legislative purposes. | Whether women have equal franchise as men. |
|--------|--|--|---|
| Cochin | Yes | Extended for Muni- cipalities, other local self-governing bodies, as also for the Legis- lative Council of the State. | Yes —but in addition a few seats are reserved for women in the Major constituencies for elec- tion to the Legislative Council also by system of direct nomination |

ALL-INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------|---|--|
| Kolhapur | Yes | Municipal only. No Legislative Council in the State. | Yes |
| Indore | Yes | Extended to the Municipality as well as to the Legislative Council. | Men and Women have the same franchise. |
| Baroda | Yes | Municipal as well as state council. | Sex is no disqualification. |
| Phaltan | Yes | It has been extended to both Municipal and Legislative purposes. | Women have not yet been given any franchise but it is proposed to grant them franchise for Legislative purposes before the election next year. |
| Mysore | Yes | Extended to the Municipality, Legislative Assembly and Council. | Yes |
| Gwalior | Yes | For Municipal purposes only. | A committee is appointed to deal with the question. |

What is the basis of franchise for both ?

Where legislatures exist, what is the position of women in it ?

Are there any women serving on; Municipalities, Local Boards & Legislatures. (where these exist)

Cochin

Educational qualification S S L. C, (Matriculation Standard) or minimum tax of a few rupees paid to the Govt or the Municipality, in any form.

Men & women have the same franchise but women have in addition a few seats reserved for them in the Major constituency for election to the Legislative council. The Govt. have all along been ready to give representation to women wherever necessary by a system of direct nomination.

There are several women serving on the Councils of the state.

Kolhapur

Educational. University graduates and fellows. Payments of rates and taxes. Pensioners about a certain grade, title holders British & state.

No legislative Council in the State.

One woman is an elected member of the Educational Board of the Ilakha Panchayat. (Dist. Board Kolhapur)

Indore

Municipality.—

- (1) Possession of property whose minimum rental value is Rs 5/- per month or tenancy of such a property.
- (2) University Graduates. For the Legislature there are
- (1) Graduates constituency
- (2) City Municipality,
- (3) Dist. Municipality,
- (4) Bar Association,
- (5) Mill Owners Ass.
- (6) Cotton, Grain & gold Merchants,
- (7) Gyara Panch.

In the Legislative council up to now no woman has stood for election, one lady has been nominated by the state

One lady is at present nominated in the City Municipality of which she is Vice-President. There are no Local Boards in the state but only Dist. Municipalities where there are no women members at present.

ALL-INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

| | | | |
|---------|---|--|---|
| Baroda | <p>1 Property:— 2 Payment of tax 3 Education up to vernacular or school final.</p> | <p>Women cannot contest for the Dhara Sabha as there is indirect election to it from the board. As yet no women had been nominated to the Dhara Sabha.</p> | <p>Women are usually appointed on Committees appointed by Govt or Dhara Sabha where their voice is necessary.</p> |
| Phaltan | <p>In the Case of men it is mostly proprietary or tenancy rights over property above certain value, payment of Income Tax, State service above certain rank</p> | <p>Women have no place in the Legislative councils at present.</p> | <p>No women are serving at present on either Municipalities, Local Boards or Legislature.</p> |
| Mysore | <p>Property: Residence & other qualifications such as degree holders, payment of income tax etc. There is adult franchise for women for the minor Municipalities.</p> | <p>Sex disqualification has been removed and men & women stand in the same position. There is besides the property qualification literacy qualification for city Municipalities, town Municipalities & Dist. Boards.</p> | <p>There are in the Representative Assembly 6 ladies, one elected and five nominated.</p> |
| Gwalior | <p>Basis of Municipal Fran; literacy—as defined in the census report, plus payment of Municipal tax—House tax, varving from Rs 12 to 24/- annually. Education qualification: University degree or diploma without the condition of the payment of municipal tax Professional qualification — (a) pleaders of two years standing,</p> | <p>There is one woman serving on the Municipal Committee at Guna.</p> | |

(b) Proprietors of land situated within municipal limits or Patels thereof

(c) Jagirdars or revenue free holders.

(d) Retired Gazetted officers.

(e) Title Holders

Names of Women Serving on Municipalities Legislative Councils or their equivalents, in the following States

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| Cohin | 1 | Mrs. (Dr) D' Souza Williams, L. R. C. P. &c., Women Hospital, Mattancherry, Cohin member of Legislative council | Nominated |
| | 2 | Mrs Meenakshi N Menon, Ernakulam member of Legislative council | Nominated |
| | | (Their term expires in April next) | |
| | 3 | Mrs G. Kuriyan, Ernakulam | Member, Municipal Council, Ernakulam |
| | 4 | Mrs John, Trichur | Member, Municipal Council, Ernakulam |
| Kolhapur | 5 | Honorary Magistrates. | |
| | 6 | Miss Kalse is an elected member of the Education Board of the Ilakha Panchayat (Dist Board) Kolhapur. | |
| Indore | 7 | Mrs Radhabai Bhagwat is at present nominated in the city Municipality, where she is the Vice-President | |
| | 8 | Mrs. Kamalabai Kibe has been nominated to the Legislative Council | |
| Baroda | | | |
| Phaltan | | | |
| Mysore | | Mrs R D'Souza. | (Elected) |
| | | Sri R Kalyanamma | (Nominated) |
| | | Sri D Sakamma | " |
| | | Dharmaparayani Sir Alamma | " |
| | | Mrs K. D Rukminamma, B. A., | " |
| | | Mrs W H Theobald | " |
| Gwalior | | There is a woman serving on the municipal committee at Guna. | |

Note A perusal of the table will show that even in some of the largest states the system of nomination still exists and that there are relatively few women serving on Municipalities and in the legislative councils except perhaps in the case of Cochun & Mysore

Important Resolutions passed at Previous Sessions

I EDUCATIONAL

A. General

1. This Conference defines Education as training which will enable the child or the individual to develop his or her latent capacities to the fullest extent for the service of humanity. It must therefore, include elements for physical, mental, emotional, civic and spiritual development. The course of study arranged for this purpose must be so flexible as to allow of adaptation to the conditions of the individual, the locality and the community.

2. At every stage of education the spirit of social should be inculcated.

3. Moral training, based on spiritual ideals, should be made compulsory for all schools and colleges.

4. In all education of girls, teaching in the ideals of motherhood, and in making the home beautiful and attractive, should be kept uppermost.

5. Agriculture should be included in the curriculum as a compulsory subject in schools in rural areas and as an optional subject in all other schools and colleges.

6. Girls' schools should be inspected both by women having general and also by those having technical qualifications.

7. This Conference is of opinion that the undue importance given to examinations has greatly hindered the educational progress of pupils and it recommends that investigation be made into the problem of testing progress.

8. This Conference approves of Cinema Films being used for educational purposes in schools generally and in rural schools in particular.

9. This Conference in its Memorandum has emphasised the necessity of reforming and enlarging the conception of education in Universities, training colleges and schools. It views with interest the progress that has been made and joins with the Constituent Conference in reiterating the importance of the inclusion in the curricula of study of;

(a) Sociology, Home and Domestic Science in all its branches.

(b) Fine Arts. (Music, Painting, etc)

(c) Specifically Indian Culture, including the Vernaculars and Sanskrit, Arabic and Persian.

(d) Physical Culture

- (i) This Conference reiterates the vital necessity for public parks and playgrounds for children in cities, and gives its whole-hearted support to all schemes for the extension of physical education in schools and colleges,

It hopes that the example of Bengal in the formation of a 'Fresh Air League' will be followed by other Constituencies

- (ii) This Conference strongly protests against the recent cuts in grants-in-aid to educational institutions, particularly primary schools, and urges the educational authorities to see that all such grants are immediately restored.

10. This Conference reiterates its former Resolutions—

- (a) that in all educational institutions there should be compulsory physical training for children from the primary stages by qualified physical instructors;
- (b) compulsory medical inspection with after-care treatment,
- (c) and it also calls upon Municipalities and Local Boards to provide an adequate number of public parks and play-grounds for women and children.

11. This Conference requests the authorities of the Allahabad and Benares Hindu Universities to remove the bar against co-education and urges those schools and Universities where co-education does not exist to introduce and encourage the same.

12 This Conference feels that there ought to be a re-orientation of the entire system of education in this country and is of opinion that Government and private institutions should introduce vocational training immediately in schools and colleges.

13. This Conference, mindful of the interests of the youth of this country, appeals to the Government of India to exercise rigid control over all cinema films and posters and requests it to appoint women on every Board of Censorship

14 *Health.*

This conference is emphatically of opinion that the health of children, and specially of school children and college students, is of vital importance to the well-being of the country. It therefore considers it essential that matters connected with

(a) School hygiene and sanitation, (b) Medical Inspection of school children; (c) School Clinics and Care-Committees; (d) Health education in schools, (e) Physical Culture, (f) Adult Classes for the study of Child Welfare and Child Hygiene, and (g) Dietetics, with special reference to children's food, should receive special attention, and appoints a Sub-committee to study the questions and to report to the Conference at its next session.

15. **Medical Inspection**—This Conference demands legislation for compulsory Medical Inspection and treatment in all schools. (Ahmedabad 1936)

16 Special schools for defectives (whether physical, mental or moral) should be established and private enterprise in this direction should be encouraged and aided by the Government.

B. Primary Education

1. This Conference demands that the new Constitution of India should guarantee to every child within the country, free instruction in reading and writing up to a prescribed minimum standard, as a fundamental right of Indian citizenship

2. This Conference is strongly in favour of compulsory primary education for girls as well as for boys; it recommends all Local Governments and Local Bodies to take immediate steps to introduce compulsory education in urban, suburban and rural districts in such a way that at all district headquarters and towns the scheme shall be in full working order within five years and shall be universal within twenty years. This Conference is of opinion that this compulsory education should be made free in all schools provided by public authorities to all those unable to pay for it.

3. In order to carry out Compulsory Primary Education efficiently this Conference is of opinion that.

- (a) More Rural Training Centres should be opened where teachers drawn from rural areas should be trained under conditions such as they will meet in their work. These teachers should, in every case possible, be of secondary grade, and the employment of all teachers of lower grade should ultimately cease.
- (b) Residential quarters for women teachers should be provided in all teaching centres.
- (c) In order to assist poor parents in compulsory areas creches and nursery schools for the care of children under school-going age should be established near schools

- (d) Only clean, dry, airy and well-ventilated buildings with adequate playgrounds should be used as schools.
- (e) The sanitary code for secondary schools should be extended to elementary schools and rigidly enforced in view of the high percentage of diseases borne by contaminated water
- (f) School texts should be related to the psychology and environment of the child.
- (g) More women should be trained as specialist teachers in domestic science so that the teaching of the subject may be progressive and efficient. It is essential that the foundation of such teaching should be firmly laid in the elementary schools.
- (h) Nutrition Bureaus should be established in every Province where the much needed research work on the value of the food-stuffs available in the Province should be carried out and where all information regarding suitable dietaries could be obtained.

4. One of the first essentials for improving primary education is that the scale of salary for primary school teachers be raised. The standard required for the entrance examination for training institutions should also be raised and a better training should be provided. Well-educated men and women should be invited and given opportunities to act as honorary teachers while the supply of trained teachers is inadequate.

5. As far as possible women teachers should be engaged in the earlier stages of education, both of boys and girls, these early stages should in fact be wholly the concern of women.

6. Every educational institution for young children should make full provision for Kindergarten, Montessori or other similar classes.

7. This Conference feels that in the poorer districts a mid-day meal should be provided in the schools for those pupils who would otherwise have nothing to eat, and that the Government should be asked to make a special grant to such schools for this purpose. In these poorer districts ladies should come forward and by their own work and money organize the provision of meals.

8. This Conference is of opinion that.

- (a) Priority should be given to the claims of girls' education in every scheme of educational expansion.
- (b) Primary education should be made compulsory for girls as well as for boys.

- (c) It protests against the omission of girls from schemes of compulsory education.
- (d) It urges that compulsory education should be enforced wherever it has been established, and that public co-operation should be secured to ensure the regular attendance of pupils until their 12th year,

because it realises that educated mothers are a sure guarantee of the education of the coming generation and an essential factor in the advance of a nation

9. *Compulsory Education*

This Conference is of opinion that girls should be included in all schemes of compulsory Primary Education, and particularly supports the resolutions of Constituencies of Madras Presidency that the new Committee formed by the Madras Government to draft a Scheme of Compulsory Elementary Education should do so not only for all boys, as are its terms of reference, but for all girls and boys of elementary school-going age.

C. Secondary Education

1. The Vernacular should be the medium of instruction, English being a compulsory second subject. Hindi or Urdu should be included in the curriculum as an alternative to the classical languages, one of which should be compulsory.

2 Alternative courses should be established to suit the needs of girls who do not intend to take up College Education These should include Domestic Science, Fine Arts, Handicrafts and Industries

3. It is desirable that Sex Hygiene be taught in all Secondary schools and colleges, by competent teachers.

4. Separate Middle Schools and High Schools for girls should be established in places where a demand for them exists and where there are no such schools.

5. Whereas in many parts of India the problem of obtaining suitable buildings for girls' schools is becoming more and more acute, the Conference calls upon its Standing Committee to consider:

- (a) The advisability of launching a propaganda campaign in its many Constituent Areas in order that companies may be formed on the lines of the Girls' Public Day School Company in England whereby in that country a sufficiency of Girls' High Schools was established
- (b) The recommending of such a campaign to the All-India Women's Education Fund Association as part of its work in the coming year.

6 This Conference recommends that the inspecting staff of girls' schools should consist of women only, and that the Chief Inspectress should be considered as Deputy-Directress of Instruction.

7. This Conference supports the Resolution of Central Punjab Constituent Conference and draws the attention of the Government to the condition of women's education in the North-West Frontier Province and requests that a High School for girls be opened there at the earliest possible date.

D. College Education

1. The following subjects should be added as optionals to the present curricula. Fine Arts, Advanced Domestic Science, Journalism, Social Science, Architecture

2 Special encouragement in the way of Scholarship should be offered to women students to attract them to take their Degrees in Law, Medicine, Fine Arts and Social Science.

3. Hostels for Girls

In view of the fact that the demand for higher education amongst girls is increasing rapidly, this Conference urges the Government and Universities to take steps for the establishment of properly supervised Hostels for women students.

4 This Conference urges the Educational authorities in India to make adequate Hostel arrangements for women students in all important centres of education.

It further calls upon them to make such arrangements on noncommunal lines (Ahmedabad 1936)

5. Lady professors should be appointed (to act as advisor) in all colleges where there are women students.

6 This Conference recommends to the University of Bombay and to other Universities where such facilities do not exist :

(i) that vernaculars should be allowed, optionally with classical languages in the curricula at *every stage* in the University course.

(ii) that Domestic Science, optionally with Physics, should be allowed in the First Year in the Arts Examination.

7. This Conference regrets that the condition of affiliation of colleges to Universities regarding the provision of lodging accommodation of students has in some instances remained a dead letter, so far as women students are concerned, and it requests the Senates to see that all colleges affiliated to

their respective Universities are suitably provided with hostels or approved lodging accommodation of their women students, and to direct their Syndicates to ask the inspecting committees of the affiliated colleges to report as to whether this condition has been fulfilled.

8. This Conference is of opinion that, in view of the long hours and strenuous nature of the work which the Medical Course entails, hostels for women students in the *immediate* vicinity of the medical Colleges are a necessity and this Conference recommends that such provision should be made by college authorities.

9. This Conference congratulates the A. I. W. E. F. Association for having established in Delhi a Central College (Lady Irwin College for Women) to teach Home Science in all its branches. It calls upon all its Constituencies to collect funds for the creation of at least two local scholarships for girls who after completing the Home Science Course at the Lady Irwin College would be expected to teach that subject for a stated number of years. It also requests the public to extend financial aid towards this most useful and unique Institution.

College for Girls in the N. W. F. P.

10. This Conference supports the demand of the women of the North West Frontier Province for a Girls' College and urges the authorities to take steps for its establishment at an early date [Ahmedabad 1936]

[a] And further urges that Home Science be introduced as a compulsory subject in high schools and as an optional course in colleges for women.

E. Training

1. This Conference recognizes the imperative need of a greater number of Training Schools and urges upon the Government and the Local Bodies to take immediate steps to start such schools in every centre where they do not exist.

2. This Conference is of opinion that centres for special courses to train teachers for rural areas should be opened, and that courses should be arranged for teachers already working in rural areas.

3. This Conference recommends that branch committees similar to the Bengal Branch of the Indian Women's Education Society be formed in the different provinces of India to help the Bengal Committee in the selection of a scholar to undergo training abroad.

4. This Conference recommends that immediate steps be taken to carry into effect the repeated Resolution that a Central College be founded to train graduates and matriculates in order to secure a higher standard of Kindergarten

and secondary teachers and that the Fund Association be requested to allot money for founding and endowing such a college.

5 This Conference places on record its dissatisfaction with the policy of the Government in reducing the number of students admitted to the Training College and strongly desires that their numbers should be increased

6 This Conference regards the standard accepted by the Government of 50 p c of trained teachers in primary schools as a very low one and suggests to all Municipalities and Local Boards to engage only trained teachers

7 This Conference considers that the present course of training for Matriculate and non-matriculate teachers is very unsatisfactory, and that the standard of examination should be raised and better provision be made for the actual training

F Literacy, Mass Education and Adult Education

1 Literacy

This Conference reiterates its former resolutions deploring the appalling illiteracy in the land, and believing that unless a concerted and intensive campaign is organised the moral and material progress of the land is bound to be hampered, appoints a sub-Committee

(a) To study the question in all its bearings

(b) To keep in touch and co-operate with all work in the cause of literacy amongst adults

(c) To initiate practical schemes of work

(d) To report on all work done in this direction to the next Conference
(Trivendrum. 1935)

2. Mass-education

As all claims to democracy and citizenship will fail to receive recognition so long as the masses of India remain illiterate, this Conference emphatically repeats its demand for

(a) The efficient introduction of **COMPULSORY EDUCATION** throughout India

(b) the extension of **ADULT EDUCATION** especially with a view to the expansion of vocational training and the general uplift of the masses

3 University Extension Lecture Scheme should include special courses for women.

4 This Conference recommends that Industrial Homes for women be

established where possible and that provincial Governments be approached to give sufficient grants to run such institutions in an efficient manner

5 This Conference reiterates the importance of tackling the problem of Adult Education in every way possible and urges the Government, Municipal Councils, Local Bodies and women's Associations to organise classes and centres for the promotion of literacy and general education among adult women and suggests the establishment of cinemas, moving libraries and publication of suitable books and magazines in the vernaculars

6 This Conference, realising the vital need of educating the masses of the country, urges that the speediest possible measures be adopted for the spread of adult education and suggests the use of the Radio and Broadcasting as one of the means to achieve this object

7. Adult Education

[a] *Literacy* With a view to intensify the campaign against illiteracy, this Conference recommends that each Constituency should appoint a special sub-Committee to carry on the work, and to report progress every half-year to the Conference through the proper channels

[b] *Mass Education* This Conference views with satisfaction the work that is being done for the promotion of adult education, particularly in the rural areas of the country, by our constituencies and by other public and private organisations.

It urges the constituencies to make further earnest efforts to organise such work wherever required and to co-operate with other associations doing similar work

[c] *Broadcasting* This Conference strongly appeals to the Broadcasting authorities in India to promote mass education in every possible way through the medium of the Radio. It suggests the authorities concerned to have representative committees, with women, in every province to draw up practical schemes for this purpose

[Ahmedabad 1936]

G 1 Common Language

Recognising the urgent need of a universal language for India, this Conference appoints a sub-committee,

- (a) To report on means and methods that could be adopted for the realisation of this ideal
- (b) To compile a comprehensive vocabulary of words commonly used in India in order of frequency of use
- (c) To co-operate with other associations engaged in similar work.

(Tiruvendrum (1935))

2 Hindustani

(a) This Conference recommends that earnest efforts be made in all constituencies to encourage the study of Hindustani so that it may soon become the common language of India

(b) It requests all educational authorities to promote the teaching of Hindustani in schools

(c) It further requests the Universities to include Hindustani in the syllabus for the Matriculation Examination and other University Examinations where it may not be so included

(d) It is the opinion of this Conference that the language should not be over Sankritised or over-Persianised, and that the script used may be the Devanagari, Urdu or Roman
(Ahmedabad 1936)

H Miscellaneous

1 This Conference calls upon the Government to withhold its grant from any school which excludes any particular community from it, in all cases where no other provision for that community already exists

2 This Conference recommends that Government recognition should be given to successful educational institutions which have been working on experimental lines advocated by this Conference (such as the Indian Women's University and others) which deserve such recognition

3 This Conference recommends that women should be given adequate representation on all Educational Boards which control Primary, Secondary, and University Education and all Text-Book Committees.

4 This Conference reiterates the importance of educating girls of all communities in the same schools in order to promote mutual understanding and a common cultural unity.

5. This Conference is totally opposed to the infliction of corporal punishment in schools and institutions for boys and girls and it calls on every one to report instances to the authorities concerned and on the latter to see that the laws forbidding such acts are strictly enforced.

6 As a practical measure for the realisation of its ideal of a universal language for India, the All-India Women's Conference hopes to conduct as soon as possible its proceedings in Hindustani, and invites the immediate and full co-operation of the Constituencies in this endeavour

7. Co-education.

In the opinion of this Conference, the proper encouragement of *co-education*

would help greatly towards the solution of various social and economic problems confronting the country. The Conference therefore urges strongly that:—

- (i) Co-education be introduced in primary schools and colleges:
- (ii) A large proportion of women teachers be always appointed on the staffs of Co-educational Institutions, particularly those of primary schools.
- (iii) At least one of the supervisors employed by the Local Self-governing Bodies be a woman.

8. *Parental co-operation.*

Realising how gravely the progress of Education in the country is hampered by the lack of *co-operation* between teachers and parents this organisation of women appeals to all parents and guardians to help in this direction.

9. *Debating Society.*

In support of the recommendation of the Educational Committee, this Conference advises the immediate formation in each Constituency of a *debating society* to serve as a training ground for,—

- (a) the stimulation of discussion on matters of public interest;
- (b) the efficient expression of thought and speech.

10. **Differentiation between the Matriculation and the School-Leaving Examination.** This Conference considers that the combination in one and the same Matriculation Examination of two different tests, one an entrance to the University, and the other a completion of Secondary Education, is not calculated to accomplish either of those two aims satisfactorily; and therefore, calls upon all Departments of Education and Universities to take immediate steps for the separation of these two tests into two distinct examinations.

(Ahmedabad 1936)

II SOCIAL

A Child Marriage Restraint Act

1. This Conference emphatically condemns the unnatural and devitalising custom of allowing immature girls to become wives and mothers, as it robs them of their right to education and freedom and arrests their mental, moral and physical growth. This meeting demands that the legal age of marriage be fixed at 16 and 21 for girls and boys, respectively.

2 (a) This Conference expresses its satisfaction at the passing of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, and congratulates Rai Saheb Harbilas Sarda and those who helped in making it the law of the land on their achievements.

(b) It further urges that—

(i) In order to make this Act effective, it is necessary to form Sarda Committees to prevent, and to bring to light, breaches of the Law.

(ii) In order to give effect to the Child Marriage Restraint Act, it is imperative to take immediate steps to provide adequate machinery for the registration of marriages and to ensure the correct registration of births, in accordance with the recommendation of the Age of Consent Committee.

(c) It condemns the agitation started by certain classes against the Child Marriage Restraint Act and condemns the proposed Bills asking for exemptions from the operation of this Law

3 This Conference once again condemns all attempts to repeal the Child Marriage Restraint Act and is opposed to the exemption of any section or community from its provisions

It urges upon the Government not only to enforce the Act more stringently but also to amend it so as to make child marriage impossible

4 This Conference views with dismay the frequent violation of the Sarda Act. It calls upon the Constituencies to educate public opinion against the custom of child-marriage.

(i) by holding public meetings denouncing the evil results of child-marriage

(ii) by distributing leaflets containing information about the existing legislation and the necessity of drastic measures and effective amendments to the Act;

(iii) by supporting Bills in the Legislatures amending the Child Marriage Restraint Act. e.g., Mr B. Das's Bill before the Legislative Assembly and the Bill before the Travancore Legislative Assembly

(iv) by appealing to the Indian States to introduce similar measures for the restraint of child marriages as soon as possible.

5 This Conference supports Sir Hari Singh Gour's Age of Consent Bill and demands that the age be raised to 16 and 18 for married and unmarried girls, respectively.

6. This Conference gives its support to the "Bill to further amend the Special Marriage Act of 1872".

7. This Conference is of opinion that marriage should not be made compulsory for every girl and urges upon parents the necessity of recognising the rights of sons and daughters to decide their own career in life.

8 This Conference recommends that unequal marriages of old men to minor girls should be forbidden by law.

9. *Polygamy.*

This Conference strongly disapproves of Polygamy and appeals to women not to marry, and to parents, not to give their daughters in marriage to any man who has a wife living.

10. (a) This Conference is grateful to Sir Hari Singh Gour for having taken up the question of Hindu marriage and recommends that his Marriage Dissolution Bill may be amended on the lines of the Baroda Hindu Divorce Act.

(b) This Conference is of opinion that the prevalent practice of divorce among Mohammedans, in so far as it allows an arbitrary power to the husband to divorce his wife at his mere caprice, is not in accord with the true interpretation of Islamic teaching and places on record its considered opinion that the right to divorce as conceded by the Islamic Law to Moslem women be recognised by the British Courts.

11. Child Marriage Restraint Act (Government of India 1929.)

In view of the fact that the Child Marriage Restraint Act has proved ineffectual so far, this Conference re-iterates its opinion that Mr. B. Das's bill amending this Act should be passed into Law without further delay.

It strongly advocates that anti-child marriage propaganda work be redoubled throughout the country with particular emphasis in the villages. (Ahmedabad (1936)

B. *Purdah*

1. This Conference condemns the custom of enforced seclusion of women and entreats all Hindus, Muslims and other communities which observe this custom, to take practical steps to educate public opinion towards abolishing it as soon as possible

C. *Inheritance*

1. (a) This Conference places on record its opinion that there should be complete equality between the sexes in the matter of inheritance and control of property.

(b) As a step towards this goal the Conference supports the following measures which are pending in the Legislative Assembly:

- (i) 'A Bill to declare gains of learning by a Hindu to be his separate property.' (Mr. Jaykar.)
- (ii) 'A Bill to make better provision for certain heirs under Hindu Law especially with regard to women regarding their rights of inheritance.' (Mr. Jogiah.)
- (iii) "A Bill to secure share for Hindu Widows in their husbands' family property." (Rai Saheb Harbilas Sarda).
- (iv) "A Bill to remove certain existing disabilities in respect of powers of adoption among Hindus." (Mr. Jayakar.)
- (c) In order to ensure the rights of inheritance to Muslim women, in accordance with the laws laid down in the Koran, the current customary law as practised in some parts of India be not recognised by the Courts.
- (d) The Conference further extends its cordial support to the committees, appointed in Mysore and Baroda, for investigating the Hindu Laws of Inheritance with a view to making them more equitable to women.

2. *Legal disabilities of women*

(i) This Conference strongly protests against the existing discriminations in Hindu Law against the rights of women; it demands that existing laws should be so amended as to make them just and equitable and that an All-India Non-official Commission be appointed to consider the removal of the legal disabilities of women as regards inheritance and marriage.

(ii) *Legal disabilities*

(a) We give our whole-hearted support to all the bills introduced into the Provincial and Central Legislatures, such as the Bill on the Hindu Women's Inheritance Rights (by Hon. Mr. P. C. D. Charry, before the Council of State) and welcomes the bills passed by the Sangli and Mysore Darbars on Hindu Widow's Property Rights, which seek to remove the legal disabilities of women in so far as they are in accord with our principles. We further support Rao Bahadur Kale's Bill in the Bombay Council, on the Hindu Widow's Property rights.

(b) We record our strong protest against Mr. Desai's Bill to amend

the laws of Adoption before the Bombay Council, as it is a decidedly retrograde measure.

- (c) We urge once more on Government the necessity of appointing a Commission with an adequate number of women on its personnel to enquire into the whole question of the legal disabilities of women. We regret that Government has so far not acceded to a demand in which we have been united from the very beginning. The recent public meetings all over India are conclusive proof that we have a large backing amongst our men and we confidently hope therefore, that the Government will accede to our request.

3. (a) This Conference resolves that a Special Committee with power to co-opt lawyers and experts should be appointed to enquire into and suggest adequate remedies for the legal disabilities of women, the Sub-Committee to appoint Branch Sub-Committees in the different Provinces and Indian States to consider questions of local interest

(b) This Conference records its sense of gratitude to the movers of the Bills in the Central and Provincial Legislatures which aim at improving the legal and economic status of women. Further it congratulates the Bombay Legislative Council for having rejected Mr Desai's Adoption Bill.

(c) This Conference urges the early enactment of legislation penalising the practice of polygamy. It recommends to our Special Committee to draw up a rational system of marriage laws which will include divorce

4 This Conference strongly urges that the mother should have equal right of guardianship with the father over her children and that a widow should have preferential right of guardianship over them.

5 **Statement on Legal Disabilities of Women** This Conference empowers the Special Committee on Legal Disabilities of Women to draw up a comprehensive Statement on the lines of the Baroda and Mysore enactments which can later be introduced in the form of a Bill in the new Legislatures
(Ahmedabad 1936)

6 Support of Bills pending Legislation

(a) While this Conference lends its support to the following Bills pending in the Legislative Assembly,

- 1 The Hindu inter-caste Marriage Bill.
- 2 The Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Bill.
- 3 The Arya Marriage Validation Bill

4 The Bill for the removal of social Disabilities amongst certain classes of Hindus

In so far as they help to improve the status of women the Conference feels that the time has come for such piecemeal legislation to be replaced by comprehensive legislation on equitable lines affecting the rights of the people of the country as a whole

(b) This Conference regrets that Dr. Deshmukh's Bill on the Hindu women's right to property which has been referred to a Select Committee has been whittled down in favour of widows only, ignoring the rights of daughters and other female heirs

(c) This Conference regrets that none of the Social Reform Bills which were before the Legislatures for consideration last September has made any headway. It appeals to the Government as well as to all the members of the Assembly to try their utmost not to delay the passing into law of such measures as will constitute a real step forward in the life of the nation (Ahmedabad 1936)

D Health

1 This Conference realises with great concern that drugs and medicines sold in India are generally impure and of inferior quality as disclosed by the evidence of eminent doctors and chemists before the Drugs Enquiry Committee

(a) It therefore supports the proposition that an All-India Drug Act be enacted for the proper control and check over the import, sale and manufacture of all drugs and chemicals

(b) It urges all Constituencies to use every means in their power to discourage and prevent the indiscriminate use of opium and other detrimental drugs

2 This Conference strongly recommends to Municipalities the need for the strict enforcement of the Food Adulteration Act

3 *Compulsory Registration of Dais and Midwives* With a view to check the inordinately high rate of Infant and Maternal Mortality in India, this Conference urges the need of Legislative measures for compulsory registration of dais and midwives and periodic supervision by qualified supervisors

4. *Birth Control* This Conference reiterates its former resolutions supporting the necessity for instruction in methods of Birth-Control through recognised clinics and calls upon all the Constituencies to make a special effort to induce Municipalities and other organisations for maternity and child welfare to open centres to impart such knowledge to those who stand in need of it

5. Utilisation of Memorial Funds

This Conference urges the central and Provincial Governments and the Governments of Indian States to utilise the King George Memorial fund for the furtherance of medical aid and Research. (Ahmedabad 1936)

E. Indigenous Industries

1. This Conference urges that in view of the poverty of the country the public be requested to encourage and support indigenous industries and calls upon the Government to open industrial centres and to give special grants to such institutions as provide industrial training for girls and women.

2. This Conference while reiterating all its former Resolutions on Indigenous Industries, is firmly of opinion that the encouragement of such is essential for the industrial and economic development of the country and appeals to the public to use *swadeshi*.

3. *Swadeshi*

This Conference is strongly of opinion that it is essential for the industrial and economic development of the country to encourage indigenous industries and appeals to the public to use *swadeshi* articles, in particular Khaddar (hand spun and hand woven fabrics)

4. **Village work and Swadeshi** This Conference strongly appeals every one of its members to take an increasingly active part in rural work and to restrict all their purchases to *Swadeshi* and products of cottage industries. (Ahmedabad 1936).

F. Women and Government

1. This conference reiterates its firm conviction that women should be adequately represented,

- (a) on the Central and Provincial Legislatures.
- (b) on District, Municipal and other local Bodies.
- (c) on Commissions and Committees affecting women and children.
- (d) In the interest of women and children this Conference recommends to the Government of India to include women in their delegations to the League of Nations and to other International Assemblies.

2. This Conference fully adheres to the stand it has taken in regard to the question of Franchise in all its bearings as pertaining to the status of women in the future Constitution of India. It expresses its firm belief in perfect sex equality and demands that women shall possess equal citizen rights with

men. No disability either legal or social shall be attached to women on account of sex, or in regard to public employment, office, power or honour and in the exercise of any trade or calling.

This Conference stands united,

- (i) in its protest against the Communal Award as touching the womanhood of India, and
- (ii) in its demand for a system of Joint-Electorates, and further resolves
- (a) that a representative Committee of ten persons including the Chairwoman and the Organising Secretary of 1932 be appointed and authorised to formulate detailed proposals in regard to the enfranchisement of women and their representation in the future Constitution of the country,
- (b) that the above-mentioned Committee of ten or a lesser number chosen from amongst themselves shall be its representatives at the joint meetings of the three Women's Organisations (A. I. W. C., N. C. W. I. and W. I. A.),
- (c) that the National Council of Women in India and the Women's Indian Association be requested to appoint their similar Committees and that the Joint Franchise Meeting be postponed until after the return of the members of the Round Table Conference and publication of the decisions of His Majesty's Government on the subject.

3 Franchise

- (a) This conference reiterates its demands regarding franchise and the status of women in the future Constitution of India as placed before the Joint Parliamentary Committee in London by our elected representatives, and fully endorses the statements made by them before the same Committee.
- (b) A cable to the above effect be sent to the Secretary, Joint Select Committee, and the Secretary of State for India
- (c) A special Session of the Conference to which representatives of the National Council of Women in India and the Women's Indian Associations be invited shall be called after the publication of the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee to determine what the attitude of the representative womanhood of India should be in case their repeated demands are ignored.

- 4 This Conference expresses its profound indignation and disappoint-

ment at the omission of the right of Franchise or of candidature for election to the Legislatures of the following Provinces —

Bengal, Assam, North-West Frontier Province, Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara and strongly recommends that these qualifications be removed forthwith

5. *J. P. C. Report*. Whereas the Joint Parliamentary Committee's Report on the White Paper, as a whole, and in particular where its recommendations concern the status of women in the new Constitution fall far short of our demands, we do hereby state in unequivocal language our strong disapproval of and inability to accept the same. We give reasons for our dissatisfaction in the appended statement

Statement

We feel that the Joint Parliamentary Committee was animated by a genuine desire to bring women in greater numbers on the electoral roll and give them a definite place in the legislatures of the new Constitution. For this spirit of sympathy with us, as also for their unqualified recognition of the part that women must play in the public life of the Country, we place on record our sincere appreciation. At the same time, however, we feel constrained to express in no uncertain terms our inability to accept the recommendations, as they stand, for the following reasons :

(a) We claim that there should be a declaration of rights in which the removal of sex disabilities should be clearly stated. We draw attention to the fact that the word "Sex" has been omitted from the "Eligibility for holding Public Office, etc.," *vide* para 367 Vol. I (Part I). While feeling keenly this omission as a grave injustice to us in spite of our repeated demands in this connection, we hope that the same may even now be rectified.

(b) The greater number of women enfranchised under the recommendations are going to be the wives and widows of property holders and to this number have also been added the wives of men with the military service qualification of the vote and the pensioned widows and mothers of military officials and soldiers. Our reasons for our strong objection to this method of enfranchisement have been stated in clear language on more than one occasion. They still hold good and we regret that in spite of our protests the qualification wholly unacceptable to us is being sought to be imposed on us. We reiterate our belief in equitable methods of election and attach equal importance to the quality as well as the quantity of the women's vote. We object strongly to the doubling of the vote for any vested interests as being against all canons of justice for the poor who constitute India's main population and against all democratic principles. We again urge the acceptance of our proposals for the introduction of adult suffrage in urban areas for purpose of increasing our electoral members.

(c) In our opinion far too much weight has, from the outset, been laid on administrative difficulties where women are concerned. This opinion is practically strengthened by the numbers of "Pardah" women who went to the polls in the recent Legislative Assembly Elections. We protest strongly against the invidious differentiations that have been made between the provinces in regard to literacy and property qualifications "Application" conditions and other details including the omission of the wives and widows of those holding the educational qualification if the 'Wifehood qualification' is unreasonably persisted in.

(d) We have not swerved from our conviction that we do not, on principle, approve of reservation of seats in Legislatures for ourselves or for any particular interest. Nevertheless, seeing that this expedient may unfortunately be imposed on us during the transition period, we deplore the entire omission of women from the Assemblies of several Provinces and the total exclusion for whatever reason, of women of the North West Frontier Province, from all citizenship rights including Franchise. We feel very strongly that in the case of these provinces where women may be said to be less vocal, the exclusion of their representatives from the Legislatures constitutes a grave omission and neglect of the very causes for which we stand. We also claim that no disabilities shall be attached to women in any province that may be newly created.

(e) If certain selected Provinces are definitely to be burdened with Second Chambers we see no reason whatsoever why women should not be accorded a definite place in all these as well as in the Council of State. We regard such as our inherent right and must, therefore protest against this omission.

(f) With Lord Lothian we are "Unrepentant believers in a system of direct election" and we, therefore, object with all possible emphasis to indirect election at any time and for any one. We refuse, likewise to accept nomination for the Legislatures for ourselves, knowing by bitter experience that the "safeguards of nomination" have been ineffective and useless in the Legislative Assembly.

Conclusion

While mentioning the above details we wish to make it quite clear that if we had secured or secure for ourselves all that we had wished or wish to secure, and if, at the same time, we felt that the recommendations, as a whole, were not in the true interests of India, we would, as women, the natural guardians of future generations, feel it our bounden duty to deny all special privileges for ourselves for the sake of the common good. In the light of general criticism of the Report we know that the recommendations are not acceptable to all shades of representative opinion in the country. We therefore

join in this widespread protest and still hope against hope that a new Constitution may eventually be created such as will meet with general approbation.

6. This Conference reiterates its disapproval of the following franchise qualifications for women provided under the Government of India Act and urges their modification in accordance with its previous memorandum at an early date (a) Wife-hood qualification, (b) Application condition

7. In recording once again its sense of disappointment at the electoral proposals, this Conference continues to stand by its former demands for —

(a) Direct Election, (b) No separate electorates for women, (c) Non-reservation of seats on a communal basis. It further notes with regret the discrimination made between the different provinces as regards the literacy qualification, e. g., Bengal, N. W. F. P., and Orissa.

8. While we are convinced that the new powers given to women by the India Act are not adequate, this Conference exhorts all women to use to the fullest advantage such powers as they have obtained at present

9. **Woman's share in the country's administration.** (a) This Conference is emphatically of opinion that the time has come when woman should take her legitimate share in the government of her country, Central, Provincial and Local

(b) While we are opposed on principle to the reservation of seats for women in the Legislatures, we emphatically protest against the differentiation made in this matter in the Frontier Province and Assam and suggest that this error be rectified forthwith. (Ahmedabad 1936)

10 *Representation of Women*

This Conference requests the British Parliament to safeguard the interest of women by making provision in the Instruments of Instructions that are to be framed for the Governor General and the Governors, that women should be given chances of association in the administration of every province as well as in the Central Government, especially in the departments of Health, Education and Labour. Provisions should also be made for at least one woman to be appointed to each Provincial Public Service Commission. It calls upon the Government to establish Women and Children's Bureaus in every province.

11. **Emergency Resolution.** In order to facilitate women voters in the exercise of their right this Conference urges upon Government the necessity of holding the ensuing elections to the Provincial Legislative Assembly, either on the same day as the General Elections, where such practice does not exist, or (2) to declare the day of women's elections as a public holiday (Ahmedabad 1936)

G. Prevention of Traffic in Women and Children

1. In view of the legislation pending and affecting the education of girls—such as Child-marriage and Devadasis—this Conference urges the Government to nominate without delay atleast two women to the Central Legislature

2. This Conference supports all efforts that are being made in the country to suppress immoral traffic in women and children, and in particular it supports the Madras Brothels Bill and Prevention of Devadasi Dedication Bill and all other Bills on similar lines. It is also of opinion that women should be equally penalised with men for keeping brothels.

3 This Conference congratulates the States of Travancore and Cochin on the abolition of Devadasi service in temples and gives its wholehearted support to Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty's Bill for the prevention of dedication of women and girls to service in Hindu temples. It calls upon all Constituencies where this practise exists to educate public opinion against it

(a) This Conference congratulates the Portuguese Government on passing a law forbidding *Shesh Vidhi* (i.e., a mock marriage which initiates girls into an immoral life) and urges the Government of India and all Provincial Governments to take similar steps immediately.

(b) This Conference appeals to its own members and to the public to aid in every way in establishing.

(i) Rescue Homes for each Province

(ii) In educating public opinion against traffic in women and children,

(iii) In taking steps to bring in legislation where necessary for the closing of brothels and in asking Government to appoint women officers for the proper enforcements of the Acts already in existence.

4. (a) This Conference requests the authorities to take more rigid steps towards the prevention of traffic in women and children and urges the necessity of a much larger number of rescue homes.

(b) This Conference views with grave concern the increased number of cases of abduction of women and as a practical measure to check this evil urges the Railway authorities to appoint women officers at Railway Station who may render assistance to women travellers.

b. *Immoral Traffic*—This conference whilst appreciating the efforts already made to suppress the traffic in women and children in India, calls upon its Constituencies—

- (i) to study the legal, moral, educational, and rescue questions concerned, in their local areas.
- (ii) to promote, where necessary, adequate and effective legal penalties against brothel-keeping and procuration and legal protection for women and children, where the local bills are not satisfactory, to introduce and secure wide support for the needed amendments.
- (iii) to urge upon parents the duty of giving graded instruction as to the moral and social uses of the creative instinct so that boys as well as girls may be adequately taught and thus helped to make right choices in life.
- (iv) That where rescue work has not yet been started, a real attempt should be made to secure and train workers and start homes, using the help of experienced women already serving in the moral and social hygiene field for such training.
- (v) The urgent need of women to offer for service as probation officers, moral welfare workers and magistrates is also emphasized by the Conference

6. *Abduction of women.* In view of the appalling number of cases of abduction of women and children, this Conference strongly urges the Government and the general public to take vigorous steps to eradicate this evil.

(a) *Legislation.* This Conference supports all bills and amendments which, in every Province of India, aim at the prevention of immoral traffic in women and children

(b) It strongly urges upon its Constituencies the study of local conditions in connection with cases of trafficking and segregated brothel areas

(c) when facts have been obtained, a vigorous protest against such crimes, by approach with the facts to the Governments, Municipal or Local Government Authorities or persons concerned in responsible positions. Where Legislation does not exist, the same to be promoted, with adequate punishments effectively enforced.

(d) *Moral Education.* Realising that the survey above suggested and adequate legislation against trafficking in women and children will not, of themselves, effectively remove the danger to health and morals arising from commercialised vice, this Conference stresses that the education of individuals in their moral and social responsibility is essential

(e) This Conference urges that in each Constituency a co-operative attempt shall be made during the coming year, to secure such progressive

health and moral welfare education as shall tend to a higher standard of personal conduct as well as a high standard of public opinion in these matters

7 Traffic in Women and Children and Rescue Homes

(a) This Conference requests the authorities concerned to take more rigid steps towards the prevention of traffic in women and children and urges all Provincial and Local Governments and the public to make immediate provision for Rescue Homes where such do not exist.

(b) Brothels at Fairs This Conference expresses its emphatic protest against the practice of opening brothels in Sind and elsewhere during Melas (fairs) as these have a degrading effect on the morals of the people, and urges the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to suppress them.
(Ahmedabad 1936)

Crimes against children 8. This Conference urges that separate Children's Courts should be established for trying juvenile offenders and in these courts at least one Magistrate should be a woman

- (a) This Conference urges women to come forward to undertake this work
- (b) It recommends that special provision be made for children sentenced for short periods
- (c) This Conference is of opinion that an All-India Children's Act on the lines of the Bombay and Calcutta Acts is necessary to give protection to all children under the age of 18 and it further urges upon all women to study the question of Juvenile Delinquency in all its aspects and co-operate in establishing clubs, shelters and Homes for the reformation of these delinquent and destitute children
- (d) This Conference expresses its keen regret at the attitude of the U P, the Mysore, and the Frontier Councils towards the Bills for the suppression of Immoral Traffic in women and children and urges upon the members of those Councils to promulgate such legislation as will punish traffickers in vice and rescue minor girls from houses of ill-fame.
- (e) It congratulates the Madras and Bombay Councils for having passed and enforced the Act for the closure of houses of ill-fame and the Calcutta Council for having appointed a Select Committee to consider further amendments to the Bill in order to make it more effective.

9 Protection of Children

- (a) This Conference impresses upon the authorities the necessity for

the introduction of Children's Acts in all Provinces of India where such Acts are not in existence.

(b) This Conference urges upon all individuals and organisations engaged in Social welfare work to take all possible measures for the care of neglected, destitute and feeble-minded children. (Ahmedabad 1936)

H. Harijan Work

1. This Conference supports all efforts that are being made in the country to remove untouchability and supports Mr Jayakar's Bill to remove disabilities affecting the untouchable classes of Hindus, pending in the Assembly.

2 This Conference notes with profound sorrow that in spite of active propaganda, the treatment meted out to Harijans continues to be so inhuman, and calls upon its constituencies to co-operate with all agencies striving for the abolition of untouchability within the country

3. This Conference gives its wholehearted support to Mr R. K. Shunmukham Chetty's Bill to remove disabilities affecting the untouchable caste of the Hindu community, and calls upon—

- (a) The members of each Constituency to educate public opinion in favour of the removal of Untouchability.
- (b) This Conference congratulates all the States that have opened their temples to the so-called untouchables and makes a special appeal to Travancore to follow their good example and thus give the lead to South India.
- (c) This Conference requests the Zamorin to open the temple of Guruvayur to the so-called untouchables
- (d) This Conference whole-heartedly supports the Anti Untouchability Bill to be introduced in the Assembly and the Madras Council by Mr C. S. Ranga Iyer and Dr. Subbarayan respectively, and appeals to His Excellency the Viceroy the Government of India to give their immediate assent to the same

4 This Conference congratulates H. H the Maharajah of Travancore on the noble step taken by him in the cause of the freedom of the Harijans. It also conveys a special message of joy and gratitude to H H. the Maharani Setu Parvati Bai that this step should have been taken during her tenure of office as our President. It earnestly appeals to all other Indian States and those in authority over temples in British India to follow the courageous lead of Travancore (Ahmedabad 1936)

I Rural Reconstruction

1 This Conference views with grave concern the conditions of life in general in Indian villages particularly in regard to education and sanitation and exhorts its Constituencies and other Women's Organizations throughout India to form Local Committees to consider practical projects for rural reconstruction

2. (a) In as much as on the economic, hygienic and moral uplift of the villagers of India depends the real progress and prosperity of our Country, this Conference welcomes the formation of the All-India Village Industries Association and resolves to co-operate whole-heartedly in this work. We call upon all, and in particular women, to devote as much time and energy as lie in their power to the work of this Association and we confidently hope that the Government will also do everything possible to further a cause which all well-wishers of India have at heart

(b) Realising that our work in general suffers greatly owing to a lack of wholtime workers, we appeal to local self-governing bodies as also public spirited persons to form and maintain Training Centres in every Province for social workers and thereby recognise social service as a definite branch of work for the uplift of the masses

3 (a) While we are glad that some of our Constituencies have taken practical steps for the amelioration of the condition of the rural population we feel strongly that our efforts should be redoubled in this direction We exhort every Constituency to carry out a constructive programme of village reconstruction in one of it villages at least during the year

(b) Industrial development of the country is an essential factor in relieving the great problem of unemployment. It is necessary, therefore for the Government as well as the people to help in every way to develop the indigenous industries in the country With this end in view, the Conference urges the women in India to encourage Swadeshi by using articles made in the country as far as they are available

(c) As a means of implementing the popularisation of Swadeshi articles each Constituency shall appoint one member on its permanent Sub-Committee who shall be in communication with the Secretary of the Indigenous Industries Sub-Committee and with the similar member of the Committee in each constituency to make a report every three months as to the Swadeshi articles available in each Constituency.

J Miscellaneous

1 *Beggar Problem* This Conference, while strongly disapproving of the

prevalence of professional begging, urges legislation for its prevention, and calls upon :

- (a) the public to co-operate by diverting their charities in this sphere towards the creation and support of institutions and for the provision of Beggar Homes, Work Houses, Infirmarys and Leper Asylums,
- (b) the local bodies to provide such Homes where they do not exist and to enforce any legislation for the eradication of this evil.

2. This Conference wishes to record its great appreciation of the munificent donation made by H. H. the Maharajah of Travancore, from his privy-purse, towards the foundation of a home for the destitutes in Travancore.

3. *Abolition of Capital Punishment—*

This Conference whole-heartedly supports Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh's Bill now before the Assembly for the abolition of Capital Punishment

4. *Cinema Films—*

- (a) This Conference reiterates the urgent necessity of a far more rigorous censorship of films and Posters.
- (b) It resolves that it is essential to have rigid censorship of films relating to India manufactured in India or outside India and shown abroad in as much as some of these create a wholly wrong impression on foreigners of our civilization and are detrimental to the interests of our Country.
- (c) It calls upon Local Governments to appoint at least one woman as member of every Board of Censors

5. *Restriction of Sale of Opium*

This Conference strongly protests against indiscriminate sale of opium and suggests a register should be kept of addicts to opium, and opium supplied only on medical certificate—as it is done in other countries.

This meeting of the All-India Women's Conference records its vehement protest against the tyranny perpetrated on their Beluchi sisters through various horrible customs as "Bhajai" (i. e., giving away wife of a deceased to his heirs), "Khoon-beha" (i.e., taking away by force the sisters and daughters of a murderer by the aggrieved party), "Tavadula" i.e., interchange of children in marriage even before they are born), "Dukhter feroshi" i.e., selling away women for marriage), and also protests against such similar customs wherever they exist.

This Conference deplores the condition of their Beluchi sisters and appeals

to the Government of Beluchistan and the educated men to take measures for their protection and uplift. It further demands that all impediments in the way of social workers and educationists be removed.

This Conference ardently hopes that the Beluchi sisters would be given the same social, economic and civic rights and privileges enjoyed by the womanhood of other parts of the country.

7. This Conference demands that in future all Conferences and Commissions appointed to deal with questions of the national welfare of India should include women representatives well acquainted with Indian conditions.

8 This Conference calls on the organised political parties to put up women candidates at each election.

9 In view of the widespread awakening in the outlook of women this Conference considers it imperative to form,

- (a) Centres for the practical training of Social workers in both rural and urban areas.
- (b) Centres for Social work.

Condolence Resolution

10. This Conference places on record its sincere grief at the death of Mrs. Kamala Nehru, Mr. Abbas Tyabji, Dr. Ansari, Munshi Premchand and Dr. J T Sunderland. (Ahmedabad 1936).

11. Hardships of Third-Class Railway Passengers

This Conference notes with concern and extreme regret that in spite of repeated requests from the general public the condition of Third-Class Railway passengers, particularly women, remains a matter of little concern to the Railway authorities.

It is high time that steps were taken to provide even an elementary standard of comfort for those passengers who constitute the large majority of the travelling public. (Ahmedabad 1936)

12. (a) Protest against the drama entitled "The Rani of Jhansi"

This Conference records its emphatic protest against the attempt made by one Mr. Philip Cox who in his drama entitled "The Rani of Jhansi" has cast serious aspersions on her moral character. This is in direct variance with all admitted historical facts. This Conference takes writings of this nature as an insult to the womanhood of India, and exhorts the Indian public to carry on country-wide propaganda against all such mean attempts so that foreign writers may not dare to distort historical facts to suit their malicious ends.

(b) This Conference emphatically protests against the statement made by Miss Sorabji in her letter to the London Times on the subject of child marriage. It considers it most objectionable as expressing views which are not held by Indians and regrets that Miss Sorabji continues to misrepresent her own country in a manner which is detrimental and degrading to herself and the nation.

(c) This Conference also calls upon the Government and the women of foreign countries in particular to use their authority and influence in disallowing unfair and nefarious propaganda from being used against us whether in the Press by way of news or articles in Journals or books or by the showing of films.
(Ahmedabad 1936)

Obscene advertisements and publications

This Conference emphatically protests against various newspapers and magazines publishing obscene advertisements and literature as these constitute an insult to womanhood. It appeals to the press as a whole to see that this pernicious practice is abolished. It also urges the Government to take more drastic steps to make the provisions of the Indian Press Act sufficiently effective to put down this demoralising aspect of the Press [Ahmedabad 1936]

14 Compulsory Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths

This Conference desires to impress on the Government of India and the States the necessity for the immediate introduction of Bills for the compulsory registration of births, marriages and deaths. [Ahmedabad 1936],

III. LABOUR

1 (a) This Conference recommends to its Standing Committee Members to enquire into the agricultural and indigenous industries of their areas and to get into touch with Co-operative Societies and in other ways to foster such industries and report to the Sub-committee appointed by the Conference to deal with this question.

(b) This Conference recommends to its standing Committee to enquire into the conditions of women and children employed in organized labour areas and report to the Sub-committee appointed by the Conference to deal with this question.

2. In all factories where there are a considerable number of women employed this Conference resolves that the following are essential :

(a) The employment of a woman doctor to ensure ante and postnatal care and attention during child-birth for the mother and medical care of the children.

(b) The establishment of Maternity Homes and an adequate supply of trained help.

(c) The establishment of creches and nursery schools.

3. (a) This Conference reiterates the need for the immediate appointment of at least one Woman Factory Inspector for every large Industrial area, with full powers under the Act.

(b) This Conference considers that these Inspectors need not necessarily be doctors but should have a thorough knowledge of workers and requests agencies engaged in the training of social workers to consider the question of providing special training, at least until there is a body of experienced women Inspectors available.

4. Housing Facilities For Labour

This Conference is insistent that the attention of the authorities concerned should turn immediately to the imperative necessity for providing improved housing facilities for the labouring classes, (Ahmedabad).

5 Since the whole standard of family life is dependent to so large an extent on housing conditions, mill-owners and local bodies in co-operation are urged to see that the workers are housed with adequate regard to health and decency. This Conference considers that a separate cooking place and a verandah or courtyard besides the living room are minimum necessities and anything falling below this standard does not fulfil the above conditions.

6 In view of the urgent necessity of removing illiteracy from the industrial population in the shortest possible time this Conference urges

(a) That part-time education be made compulsory for all half-timers up to the age of 15 years, and where conditions make it desirable millowners should co-operate with the local authorities in the provision of such education.

(b) Mill-owners are urged to give greater attention to adult education which should be specially suited to adults and need not necessarily follow the curriculum of ordinary schools.

(c) Local authorities are urged to provide playgrounds in all industrial areas.

7. Since the States have often led the way in matters of social reform, the Princes and their Councils are urged to enforce in their territories at least as high a standard of factory conditions and legislation as that obtaining in British India.

8. This Conference desires that a thorough enquiry should be made into

the condition of women mine-workers and urges the Standing Committee to take early steps in the matter.

9. This Conference calls upon the Government of India to take necessary steps immediately to implement the Report of the Whitley Commission with regard to labour conditions of women and children in India

10. This Conference expresses its regret that the Assembly had failed to ratify the International Labour Convention to fix the minimum age of Indian children in non-industrial occupations and urges on the Government of India and the Assembly the need in India to legislate against the employment of Indian children under 12 in regulated non-industrial occupation.

11. This Conference fully supports the Bill prohibiting the pledging of child labour in regulated and unregulated industries and requests that persons besides guardians and parents who pledge child labour or act in collusion with parents and guardians be penalised.

12. The All-India Women's Conference approves of the provisions of the Bill introduced by the Government of India in the Legislative Assembly to regulate the payment of wages to classes of persons employed in industry.

13. This Conference approves of the provisions of the Bill to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act subject to the following modification that to the list of the dependents of a workman entitled to claim compensation be added widowed daughter-in-law and brother's widow.

14 This Conference is emphatically of opinion that a woman representative on behalf of the women workers in factories, mines, plantations and other industries be deputed by the Government of India as a delegate or an adviser to the International Labour Conference to be held at Geneva.

15 This Conference draws the attention of the Government of India to the following recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour and urges for early legislative measures

(a) Rigorous action should be taken against those factories where conditions in regard to humidification are worst.

(b) First aid boxes should be provided in all the factories using power and in departments of factories employing over 250 persons

(c) Comprehensive Public Health Acts should be passed in all Provinces

[i] Where pipe-water supplies are not available special precautions as to purity should be taken.

[ii] Where industry begins to develop in a new area, it should be the duty of employers to provide suitable water to their workers.

- (d) Naikins [women jobbers] should be excluded from the engagement and dismissal of labour
- (e) Every Factory should be compelled to maintain separate and sufficient latrine accommodation for males and an adequate staff to keep them clean
- (f) Creches should be provided for children up to the age of six years where considerable number of women are employed This requirements should be statutory for places employing 250 women or more The Factories Act should embody this with discretionary power to Local Governments in regard to factories with fewer women The organization of factory creches should be the duty of the women-Inspectors
- (g) Women factory inspectors should be appointed in every province They should be of Indian domicile and not less than 25 years of age and their pay should be adequate to attract the right type.
- (h) Maternity benefit legislation should be enacted throughout India on the lines of the schemes operating in Bombay and Central Provinces
 - (i) The scheme should be non-contributory
 - (ii) In the first instance, the entire cost of the benefit should be borne by the employer.
 - (iii) The rate of benefit given by the Central Provinces Act is suitable for general application
 - (iv) The maximum benefit period should be 4 weeks before and 4 weeks after the child-birth
 - (v) Administration of the Act should be entrusted to the factory inspection staff and wherever possible to women factory inspectors
- (i) Maximum daily hours of work for children should be five hours,
- (j) Employers should arrange to give children at least one rest interval.
- (k) No child who has been employed full time in a factory should be allowed to work overtime or to take work at home after factory hours.
- (l) No child under the age of 14 years should be permitted to work in or about the mines.

16 This Conference strongly supports the Minority view of the Royal Commission on Labour in India as regards raising the minimum age of employment in factories from 12 to 13 years for a period of 5 years and thereafter to 14 in Conformity with the standard laid down in Article II of the International Convention

17. Owing to the increase of unemployment by the closing down of several mills and factories, this Conference feels the necessity of appointing a Committee to look into the hardships suffered by women and children in these areas and enquire and report as to what measures are advisable for relief especially in the case of children of unemployed labourers

18. (a) We agree with the recommendations of the Investigation Committee that it would be a retrograde step to go back to employing women underground and as recommended by the Royal Commission on Labour this process of elimination be completed by 1939

(b) We also urge that simultaneously, the women who are being deprived of work be found other employment on the surface, on the lines suggested in the report of the Committee

19 We regret that the recommendation of the League of Nations regarding the minimum age of child labourers has not been acted upon by the Government of India in the Factories Act, and record that in our opinion no child under 14 years should be employed as a labourer

20. As the newly amended Factory Act does not make the provision of creches compulsory for employers of women labour and as it is now believed by authorities that much of the infant mortality in India is due to the neglect of children of working mothers, we strongly urge the Government to remove this important defect so that creches are made compulsory throughout India

21 As women are sometimes forced to carry heavy loads which is detrimental to their health, it is desirable that a maximum load should be fixed for them by the Government We therefore recommend that investigations should be made regarding this maximum weight and legislation enacted accordingly.

22. *All India Maternity Benefit Act*

This Conference is of opinion that an All-India Maternity Benefit Bill on the lines of those passed in Bombay, C P, and Madras be introduced in the Legislative Assembly. It further recommends that the Constituencies in the different Provinces work for the passage of such a Bill.

23. (a) This Conference while advocating the introduction and passing of Maternity Benefits Acts throughout India regrets that, where such do exist, the application of them in practice is causing unemployment amongst women labourers. It calls upon the authorities concerned to look on this matter in a humane rather than in a mercenary spirit and upon those in charge of these measures to find ways and means of so framing the provisions that the danger of the unfortunate results now obtaining may be eliminated

(b) the Conference further urges the immediate introduction of an All-India Maternity Benefits Act (Ahmedabad)

24 Recommendations of Mining Enquiry Committee

(a) We note with great regret that no action has been taken by the authorities in the mining area regarding recommendations made by the Investigation Commission of the All-India Women's Conference which visited the mines last year

(b) We regret that no action has been taken to discontinue the Outstill System in Bihar and urge that this system be abolished as soon as possible

(c) In continuation of the resolutions passed last year regarding the women in the mines we recommend that the Conference should support a woman organiser for one year to study the situation caused by the elimination of women from underground work, and the possibilities of alternative employment

(Trivandrun 1935-36)

25 Minimum age and hours of work

This Conference whole-heartedly supports Mr Bakhale's Bill introduced in the Bombay Legislative Council to prohibit the employment of children under 12 in shops and urges that All-India legislation on similar lines limiting the hours of work and fixing a minimum age of employment of children in non-industrial undertakings be introduced

26. Unemployment This Conference is of opinion that the relief of unemployment should invite the serious attention of the Government of India and that in formulating any schemes for the amelioration of this long standing evil, an effort should be made to utilise the labour resources of India for the supply of the necessities of life at a cheaper price to the workers themselves

[Ahmedabad]

27 Social Insurance In view of the suffering industrial workers undergo, due to loss of income on account of sickness, maternity, death of wage-earners, occasional unemployment etc., this Conference recommends that schemes of Social Insurance should be introduced in British India and the States as early as possible.

[Ahmedabad]

IV GENERAL

1. Believing that the welfare of nations and classes depends on the building up of a new order

(a) We lend full support to all efforts that are being made and will be made in the future for the surmounting of barriers of race, creed, caste, nationality and promoting the spirit of international reconciliation and good-will

(b) We desire to express once more our condemnation of war as a crime

against humanity and our whole-hearted sympathy with all those men and women who are striving honestly for world disarmament.

- (c) We dedicate ourselves in our own homeland to the supreme task of creating around us a spirit of true patriotism and love of humanity so that rising above the narrow confines of communities and provinces we may see fulfilled the vision of a larger India ready to take her rightful place in the world comity of nations

2 *International Peace*

In the name of humanity the All-India Women's Conference hopes earnestly for the establishment of a permanent World-Peace by the speedy restoration of international relations based on mutual tolerance and harmony

3 This Conference, realising the vital importance of Disarmament for the peace and the happiness of the world, urges the women of India to give their whole-hearted support and sympathy to the World Disarmament Conference to be held in Geneva in February, 1932, and calls upon all Governments to reduce their Army and Navy

4 This Conference calls upon all communities in India to live together in amity and work in harmony with one another for the common welfare of the country and appeals to all women to make special endeavours to achieve this object

5. *Istambul Resolutions*

The Conference supports whole-heartedly the following resolutions passed at the Congress of the International Alliance of Women for suffrage and Equal Citizenship at Istambul 1935 .

(a) *Legal Rights*

That a Woman unmarried or married should have full personal and civil rights, including the right to the use and disposal of her property, that she should not be under the tutelage of her husband and should have the same rights over her children as the father, that she should have the same rights as a man to retain or to change her nationality

b *East and West Co-operation*

Whereas this Congress believes in the interest of true progress, the women of every country must advance on the lines of equality and justice, it pledges its hearty support to all the women of the West as well as of the East whether they struggle for the eradication of their special legal, social and economic disabilities and for the recognition of their rights to equal citizenship in their respective national units

or whether they are in danger of losing these legal, political, and economic rights which they have achieved

Welcoming the co-operation of the women of all parts of the world, the value of which has been strongly emphasised by this Congress, it expresses the wish that the women of the East and of the West be linked by ties which will grow closer and consequently serve the interests of Universal peace.

6. This Conference reiterates its demand for an Indian woman elected by the principal Indian Women's Organizations to be included in the Government of India Delegation to Geneva.

7. In view of the fact that the Council of the League of Nations has decided to invite the Government of India to be represented on the Advisory Committee for the protection and Welfare of Children and Young people for a period of five years and as this is pre-eminently a sphere where women can make a valuable contribution, the Government of India should be approached by the A. I. W. C., the N. C. W. I., and the W. I. A., jointly with a view to the appointment of an Indian woman of our choice on this Commission

8. This Conference places on record its high appreciation of the truly enlightened action taken by H. H. the Gaekwad of Baroda in passing Hindu Women's Divorce Act and also for legislating for the removal of the Legal Disabilities of Hindu Women.

9. (a) This Conference is of opinion that for any enactment concerning the welfare of women and children, the Government should consult representative women's organisations in India with a view to ascertain the true merits of such enactments

(b) It is also of opinion that women's organisations should be similarly consulted by Government in the matter of Memoranda etc., bearing on matters affecting women and children sent abroad or published by them. (Ahmedabad 1936.)

10 (a) This Conference endorses the decision of the Standing Committee for the establishment of a Permanent Central Office at Delhi at the earliest possible opportunity.

(b) It therefore makes a special appeal to the general public to contribute liberally and to the constituencies to do all in their power to raise funds for the early realisation of this project (Ahmedabad 1936)

11. This Conference puts on record its appreciation of the recent circular issued by the President of the Indian National Congress directing the Parliamentary Committees to put up women candidates for the General Seats. (Ahmedabad 1936.)

STATEMENT REGARDING REGISTRATION

The All-India Women's Conference has been duly registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 on the 18th July 1930.

Memorandum of Association of the All-India Women's Conference

1. The name of the Conference shall be "The All-India Women's Conference,"

2. The Conference shall not engage in party politics but unite on such points as affect women and children

3. The objects of the conference shall be

(a) To promote in India the education of both sexes at all stages,

(b) To deal with all questions affecting the welfare of women and children.

SIGNATURES OF WITNESSES

(Sd.) Sarojini Naidu
„ Sushama Sen
„ Margaret Cousins
„ Rameshwari Nehru
„ A. L. Huidekoper
„ Sharifah Hamid Ali
„ Kamala Devi Chattopadhyaya

4. The Standing Committee Members become the Governing Body of the Association.



Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, and the Hon'ble Mrs. V L Pandit



Band of Young musicians awaiting the arrival of the President—Elect

Constitution of the All-India Women's Conference

ARTICLE I

Name—

1. The name of the Conference shall be "The All-India Women's Conference" hereafter to be called "The Conference".

ARTICLE II

Policy, Aims and Objects—

- 1 The Conference shall not engage in any party politics, but shall unite on such points as affect women and children.
- 2 The objects of the Conference shall be—
 - (a) To promote in India the education of both sexes at all stages.
 - (b) To deal with all questions affecting the welfare of women and children

ARTICLE III

Composition —

1. The Conference shall consist of—
 - (a) Patrons,
 - (b) Office-bearers, and
 - (c) Delegates.

Patrons—Past Presidents of the Conference and any other who may be appointed by the Conference.

Office-bearers—

President,
Six Vice-Presidents,
Hon. Organizing Secretary,
Two Sectional Secretaries.
Hon. Treasurer, and
Chairwoman of the Standing Committee, if other than the President

Delegates — As duly elected by Constituent Conferences which may be convened in the following Constituent Areas and in such other Areas as the Standing Committee may decide from time to time.

Also special Delegates as provided for in the Regulations and Bye-Laws.

British India— Ajmer-Merwara, Andhra, Assam, Bengal-East, Bengal-North, Bengal-West, Berar, Bihar, Bombay, Calcutta, Central Provinces—North, Central Provinces—South, Coorg, Delhi, Gujarat, Karnatak, Konkan, Madras, Maharashtra, Malabar, N. W. F. P., Orissa, Punjab—Central, Punjab—East, Punjab—West, Sind, Tamil Nadu, U. P. (Agra), U. P. (Oudh).

Indian States—Baroda, Bhopal, Bikaner, Cochin, Dhar, Gwalior, Hyderabad (Deccan), Indore, Jaipur, Kashmir, Kolhapur, Kotah, Mysore, Phaltan, Sangli, Travancore.

- 2 The number of delegates from each Constituent Area shall not exceed ten.
- 3 The Reception Committee convened for the purpose of holding the Annual Session of the Conference shall be deemed to be a Constituent Area and as such shall have the power to elect ten delegates including its Office-bearers

ARTICLE IV

Agencies of Work—

1. The work of the Conference shall be accomplished by—
 - (a) The All-India Conference
 - (b) The Standing Committee, Sectional Committees, and their Sub-committees
 - (c) The Constituent Conferences, their Local Committees or such other agencies as the Conference may decide from time to time.

The All-India Conference—There shall be an Annual Session of the Conference at a place and time fixed by the Committee.

The Standing Committee—The Standing Committee shall consist of—

- (a) The President of the Conference for the current year,
- (b) Six Vice-Presidents,
- (c) Office-bearers.

the conference and to regulate among other matters the election of delegates, and of Local Committees, and the holding of Sub-constituent Conferences Such Bye-Laws and Regulations shall be subject to the approval of the Standing Committee.

Sub-constituent Conferences—If any, in different parts of the Area, shall send representatives to their Constituent Conference

Local Committees—Each Constituent Conference shall elect a Local Committee to act as its Executive.

ARTICLE V

Power to make Bye-Laws

1. The Standing Committee shall have power to make Bye-Laws and Regulations for the carrying on of the work of the Conference and to alter them and add to them from time to time, as occasion may require (Ref. Section 55 Bye-laws and Regulations.)

ARTICLE VI

Alteration of Constitution

1. The Constitution may not be altered except at an Annual Session by a four-fifths majority of the Delegates present, and provided that a notice of such proposed alteration shall have been sent in writing by registered post to every Local Committee of the Constituent Conferences three months before the Annual Session
-

Bye-Laws and Regulations

ALL-INDIA CONFERENCE.

Delegates

1. Each Constituent Conference shall send, through its Liaison Officer, the names of the Delegates it has elected to represent it at the All-India Conference. These must include the Standing Committee Member for the current year. It shall also clearly indicate which of the Delegates has been elected as its Standing Committee Member for the next year, and in order of preference give the names of two Delegates to act in her stead at the Annual Session, if necessary. It shall also indicate the names of two Delegates for the Subjects-Committee. These lists must reach the Organising Secretary a month before the Annual Session. Alterations, if any, should be sent without delay.
2. A Standing Committee Member shall be one of the Delegates to attend the All-India Conference and shall be chosen according to the local Constitution of each Area. During her term of office she should be resident in the Area she represents. She shall hold office from the date of the first sitting of the new Standing Committee held after the final Session of the annual Conference
3. The Delegates from each Constituent Conference shall include representatives from the Sub-constituent Conference, if any. At least three Delegates may be elected from the headquarters of the Constituent Area.
4. No Societies or Bodies may independently send Delegates to the Conference.
5. The Sub-Executive Committee shall be empowered to invite Special Delegates under exceptional circumstances. Local Committees through their Standing Committee Member may recommend such names to the Sub-Executive Committee.

Special Delegates

5 A No visitors, either special of ordinary, be invited to attend any Standing Committee meeting in future, unless specially authorised by the Standing Committee

**Special or
Ordinary
Visitors**

6 Any Constituent Conference wishing to invite the All-India Women's Conference to meet within its Constituent Area, shall pass a Resolution to that effect and authorise its delegates to give the invitation at the forthcoming Annual Session for the following Session

Invitation

7 The election of Office-bearers of the Conference, other than the President, shall take place annually.

8. The Vice-Presidents shall be nominated by the Standing Committee and elected by the Conference at the Annual Session

9 The election of the Organising Secretary and of the Treasurer shall be by ballot at the Annual Conference

10 Any vacancy among office-bearers of the Standing Committee which may occur between Annual Sessions shall be filled up and any similar vacancy among Vice-Presidents may be filled up by the Standing Committee from amongst

Vacancies

(a) its own members,

(b) its past members and

(c) in exceptional cases from among names suggested by the Sub-Executive Committee three names being submitted to the Standing Committee by the Organising Secretary or Chairwoman, and the person so elected to hold office only till the next Annual Session

11 At the Annual Session shall be presented

Business

(a) The Annual Report by the Organising Secretary,

(b) A duly audited Balance Sheet by the Treasurer.

(c) Reports of Sectional and of Sub-committees, and

(d) Brief Reports of their year's work by Standing Committee Members.

For adoption

- (e) Brief Report of the Honorary Secretary of All-India Women's Educational Fund Association } for information

Resolutions

12. Resolutions, and any other items for the Agenda of the Annual Session must reach the Organising and sectional Secretaries six weeks before the Conference.

Language

13. At the meetings of the Conference itself the speeches shall be as far as possible in the language of the place where the Conference is being held, arrangements shall be made to have any speeches in other languages translated.

Railway Concessions

14. The Subjects-Committee and the Standing Committee meetings shall be conducted in English.
15. The Organising Secretary shall arrange for railway concessions for delegates and visitors to and from the Conference

Fees

16. Delegates to the Conference shall pay a fee of rupees ten.
17. The Delegates' fees shall be equally divided between the Conference and the Reception Committee. *

Reports

18. There shall be published annually a Report of the Conference with a statement of accounts duly audited by a Chartered or Government Accountant, this Report shall be published in English, Hindi and Urdu and it shall be issued within three months after the Annual Session.

Local Conferences after Annual Session

19. The Local Committee of each Constituent Area shall send as soon as possible a Report to the Organising Secretary, giving an account of the Educational and Social Institutions and the educational and social conditions of the women and girls within its area, and shall keep this information up-to-date by further Reports from time to time
20. The Reports thus received by the Organising Secretary shall be kept to form the nucleus of a Reference Library.

*The amount paid to the Reception Committee is intended to allow Delegates to have free board and lodging during the Annual Session

21 The Local Committee of every Constituent Area shall, as soon as possible after the Annual Conference, hold a public meeting in its Area in order to give an exposition of the Conference.

22. All money received on behalf of the Conference shall be paid into an account or Bank accounts, in the name of the All-India Women's Conference and all cheques issued, shall be signed by the Organising Secretary and the Treasurer.

Moneys

Standing Committee

23. The President of the Conference shall be during her term of office, a member *ex-officio* of the Standing Committee.

Offices

24. The Organising Secretary and the Treasurer of the Conference shall have the same *ex-officio* offices in the Standing Committee.

25 The Chairwoman and two Sectional Secretaries shall be elected by ballot by the Standing Committee at the Annual Session.

26 The Standing Committee shall administer the affairs of the Conference subject to the Constitution and to any general or special instructions issued at the Annual Session

Duties

27. The Standing Committee shall appoint a Sub-Executive Committee to administer urgent affairs subject to the Constitution and in consonance with the Resolutions already passed at the Annual Sessions. The transaction of this Committee shall be duly recorded and laid before the Standing Committee at its next meeting for information or confirmation. This Sub-Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairwoman, the Organising Secretary, the two Sectional Secretaries, the Treasurer and three elected Standing Committee members [see Art. IV (d)] appointed annually by the Standing Committee (resident as far as possible within a convenient distance of the Organising Secretary) The quorum shall consist of five.

Sub-Executive Committee

28 The business of the Standing Committee shall be carried out by—

Conduct of Business

- (a) Meeting
- (b) Circulation
- (c) Sub-Executive Committee (see Bye-Law No. 27).

29. Meetings of the Standing Committee shall be convened by the Organising Secretary, or, if she is unable to do so, by a member deputed by her. The Organising Secretary shall also call a meeting on the requisition of two-thirds of the members of the Committee.
30. Important proposals for decision by circulation shall be sent by registered post to each member and the decision shall be made according to the majority of replies received. The accidental failure to receive any proposal does not invalidate the decision arrived at. If, however, the majority of replies received shows an objection to the matter being decided by circulation, then the question shall be laid before the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

Agenda

31. Any members wishing to bring forward subjects for discussion at a meeting, shall give four weeks' notice to the Organising Secretary who shall then insert the same on the Agenda.
32. The Agenda shall be sent by registered post to all members at least two weeks before the meetings

Minutes

33. The Minutes of the Standing Committee meeting shall be kept by the Organising Secretary and shall be accessible to members of the Standing Committee. A copy of the Minutes of Standing Committee meetings shall be sent by registered post to all members, whether present at the meeting or not

Quorum

34. The quorum for Standing Committee meeting shall be one-sixth of the total number of the Standing Committee of which at least four shall be elected Standing Committee members. [See Article IV (d)]

Vacancies

35. Vacancies on the Standing Committee occurring among representatives of Constituent Areas shall be filled up by the Local Committee of the Area concerned electing a new representative

36 A substitute for the Standing Committee member of any Constituent Area may, in the unavoidable absence of the regular member, be appointed by the Local Committee of that Area, to attend and vote at any Standing Committee meeting.

Substitutes

37. The Standing Committee shall have power to send one or more of its members as representatives of the All-India Conference to any other body, or meeting, inviting it to do so.

Deputations

38 The Standing Committee shall have the power to co-opt whenever necessary, one woman doctor, one woman lawyer, and on the recommendation of the Sectional Committees, experts on any required subject. These Co-opted Members shall not have the power of voting.

39 The Secretary of the All-India Women's Fund Association shall be co-opted annually as a Member of the Standing Committee during her term of office and shall have the power of voting.

40 A Each Constituency and Standing Committee Member shall send in one nomination for the President within three months after the Annual Session. The names are then to be circulated to the Constituencies and Standing Committee members in alphabetical order. Voting papers will be sent to each Constituency and Standing Committee Member who will send their votes by registered post to reach the Honorary Organising Secretary a fortnight before the half-yearly meeting. No nominations or elections will be considered after the dates mentioned here.

Election of President of Conference

40.B (i) That every Constituency shall be asked to submit names of those who are suitable for the offices of the Chairwoman, Treasurer and the Organising Secretary, and are likely to accept these offices. These names shall then be circulated again to all Constituencies by the Organising Secretary, so that the Delegates attending the Annual Session will have had ample time to find out all about the possible office-holders.

Election of the Chairwoman, Treasurer and the Organising Secretary

(ii) After the consent of a nominee for one of the offices of the Conference, other than the presidency, has been obtained, she shall not withdraw.

Sectional Committees

41. There shall be two Sectional Committees, one for Educational Reform and one for Social Reform. Each Committee shall include the Sectional Secretary, Conveners of the Sub-committees of that Section, if any; two members elected by the Standing Committee, representatives of those whom the year's programme of work will chiefly affect and experts competent to deal with the work in view. The latter shall be co-opted by Sectional Committee. In Constituent Areas the Sectional Committees shall work through, or with the consent of the Local Committees.

Sub-committees and Conveners

42. The Standing Committee and Sectional Committees shall have the power to appoint such Sub-committees and their Conveners as shall be required to carry on the work of the Conference.
43. The Chairwoman and the Organising Secretary shall have the right to attend as ordinary members any of the Sub-Committee meetings, if they wish to do so.
44. Conveners of Sub-Committees shall have power to fill vacancies on their Sub-committees and to obtain the co-operation of experts.
45. Conveners of Sub-committees shall send a report of their Sub-committees' work to the Organising and Sectional Secretaries twice within the year, i. e., once five months after the Annual Session and again one month before the next Annual session.
46. The Convener of each Sub-committee shall be allotted a certain sum for the expenses of the Sub-committee; any further expenditure shall be considered by the Standing Committee, who shall decide whether to allot further sums or not.
- 46.A. When appointing any Committee or Sub-Committee, the appointing Committee shall clearly define the powers of, and the work to be done by, such Committee.
- 46.B. Conveners of Sub-Committees shall ordinarily be members of the Constituencies in which they live and where such exist.

DUTIES OF STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

Standing Committee member

47. The Standing Committee Member of each Constituent Area shall be the Liaison Officer between that

Area and the Organising Secretary of the Conference. In case of emergency she may delegate her duties as Liaison Officer to a member of the Local Committee approved of by that Committee.

- 48 Where there is no member to represent a Constituent Area, the Organising Secretary of the All-India Conference shall deal directly with the Secretary of the Local Committee of that Area.
- 49 The Standing Committee Member of any Constituent Area shall, as its Liaison Officer, be *ex-officio* member of the Local Committee of that Area, and of the Reception Committee of her Area when such exists.
- 50 Each Standing Committee Member shall be responsible for forwarding to the Organising and Sectional Secretaries the Resolutions passed in her Constituent Conference. She shall also send to the Organising Secretary the number present at the Constituent Conference and the names and addresses of the delegates elected thereat to attend the All-India Women's Conference. This information must reach the Secretaries six weeks before the Annual Session.
- 51 Each Standing Committee Member shall submit a report of the work done in her Constituent Area to the Organising Secretary five months after each Annual Conference, and another one month before the next one. She shall also submit for adoption at the Conference a brief report of the year's work in her Constituent Area.
52. Each Standing Committee Member acting on behalf of the Local Committee of the Constituent Area in which the Conference is to be held, shall convene a public meeting at which arrangements for a Reception Committee of women shall be made.
- 53 The Standing Committee Member shall put the Conveners of the Sub-committees of the All-India Women's Conference in touch with the Conveners of similar Sub-Committees of her Constituent Conference when such exist.

Resolutions

Report

Reception Committee

Conveners of Sub-Committees

**Attendance
at Annual
Session**

54. The Standing Committee Members shall arrive (designate members also if possible) at the place where the Annual Conference meets two days before the Conference, and the new Standing Committee members shall remain for two days after its close

**Alterations
and
Additions
to Bye-Laws
and Regulations**

55. These Bye-laws and Regulations may not be altered, or added to except by the Standing Committee at one of its meetings, held at the time of an Annual Session, by a two-thirds majority of the members present, and provided that a notice of such proposed alteration or addition, shall have been sent in writing by registered post to every member of the Standing Committee three months before the Annual Session

**Provisional
Programme
for Annual
Session**

56. After formal discussion at the Half-Yearly meeting of the Povisional Programme, the Hon. Organising Secretary should be empowered to fix the programme finally in consultation with the Standing Committee Member of the place where the Annual Session is to be held.

**Attendance of
the Sectional
Secretaries and
Treasurer at
the Standing
Committee
Meeting**

57. The Educational and Social Section Secretaries and the Hon. Treasurer shall be present at the Standing Committee Meeting, and failing to attend the meeting personally, they shall send their own representatives and preferably from the Sectional Committee.

**Circulars to
Constituencies
and Sub-consti-
tuencies.**

58. Except when personal opinion is solicited, the Standing Committee member should without delay inform the Local Chairwoman and the Local Secretary of the Circulars received from the Organising Secretary.

(a) The Organising Secretary shall send upto three extra copies of each circular to a Standing Committee member, to facilitate the work of her Constituency, on payment of Rs. 10/- annually.

(b) Sub-Constituencies on payment of Rs. 10 annually direct to the Hon. Treasurer and informing the same to the Hon. Organising Secretary shall be entitled to receive the usual circulars and two copies of the Annual Report.

59 Past Presidents shall have the right to come to any Conference as Special Delegates and shall exercise the rights of Special Delegates

60 (a) Ex-Office bearers of the Conference may be supplied with Circulars, Minutes and reports on payment of Rs 10 annually.

Ex-Office-Bearers

(b) Ex-Chairwomen, Ex-Honorary Treasurers, Ex-Honorary Organising Secretaries, and Ex-Sectional Secretaries, may attend Standing Committee meetings as members without a vote, provided they pay an annual subscription of Rs. 10 to the Conference

RULES OF PROCEDURE

1 All Resolutions concerning changes of (a) Constitution. (b) Bye-Laws and Regulations, must reach the Organising Secretary four months before the date of the Annual Conference

Resolution

2. Attention is drawn to Rule 12 which reads,
"Resolutions, and any other items for the Agenda of the Annual Session, must reach the Organising and Sectional Secretaries six weeks before the Conference"

3 Only Resolutions sent in by the Constituent Conference can be placed on the Agenda of the Annual Session, but exceptions may be made in the case of urgent and important matters at the discretion of the Sub-Executive Committee

4 Each Standing Committee Member shall send a copy of all the Resolutions her Constituency wishes to have placed on the Agenda to each of the following

(a) The Organising Secretary

(b) The Educational Section Secretary

(c) The Social Section Secretary

not later than six weeks before the Annual Session.

5 Each Constituent Conference shall send in its Resolutions classified as follows

I Educational

II Social

These to be further classified as—

(a) Urgent Resolutions urgent because of pending legislation, etc

- (b) Starred Resolutions are considered as of first class importance because of their All-India application
- (c) Local, for which the backing of the Conference is desired
- (d) Local Resolutions of only local importance for information.

6. The Resolutions sent up which cover alternations of Resolutions already embodied in the Memorandum of important resolutions should be so worded as to ask for the addition or deletion of certain clauses in definite paragraphs of the Memorandum.
7. As soon as possible after receiving these Resolutions, each Sectional Secretary shall issue copies of all the Resolutions received concerning her section, classified in a similar way. These lists shall be issued to each Standing Committee Member who will be supplied with copies for distribution among the delegates of her Constituency, and amendments invited. Such amendments shall reach the Organising Secretary and the Sectional Secretaries at least two weeks before the Annual Session.
8. Each Sectional Secretary shall prepare copies including these amendments for members of the Subjects-Committee
9. The Subjects-Committee consists of.
 - (a) all the Standing Committee Members
 - (b) two additional members appointed for the purpose by each Local Committee, who shall be known as the Subjects Committee Members.
 - (c) The same rule as to substitute for the Subjects-Committee Member shall be in force as for Standing Committee Member. (See Bye Law 1.)
10. The Subjects-Committee shall go through the classified copies including the amendments and shall determine the number and order of Resolutions to be taken up at the open Conference
11. Copies of Resolutions as prepared by the Subjects-Committee shall be given to each Delegate at the time of registration (if possible) They will also be obtainable at the Enquiry Office.

Subjects Committee

**Procedure
for Sectional
Sittings**

- 12 Any Delegate wishing to make further amendments should give them in writing at the Enquiry Office before noon on the day previous to the Sectional Sitting dealing with the subject. During the Sectional Sitting any Delegate wishing to propose an amendment should send it in writing to the Chair.

13. Urgent Resolutions

(a) From the Chair

(b) Proposed and seconded in the usual way

Time allowed,—Proposer 5 minutes

Secunder 3 „

Supporer 3 „

Order —As determined by the Subjects Committee

Language —The first three speakers shall as far as possible speak in different languages.

The Resolution shall then be thrown open to general discussion, each speaker being allowed not more than three minutes except with the consent of the President. After half an hour the President shall inform the House and take its sense as to further discussion. The amount of time devoted to general discussion is also left to the discretion of the President.

14. Voting shall be, in the first instance, by show of hands.

Voting

- 15 If a count is called for, Delegates shall be asked to stand, and may not sit until their vote has been taken.

- 16 The Standing Committee shall appoint four or six tellers to count voters.

- 17 Visitors and Reception Committee Members who are not Delegates shall be seated apart from the Delegates, and shall, if possible, have a separate entrance to the Hall.

Visitors

- 18 Volunteers shall be responsible for the proper sittings of Delegates, voters. etc,

- 19 Gentlemen-Visitors shall be admitted only to the Opening Ceremony.

- 20 Men Reporters, if present, shall be so seated as not to prevent Purdah ladies from taking part in the proceedings.

Enquiry Office

21. There shall be an Enquiry Office in working order from the time the Standing Committee Members arrive until they leave.
22. It shall keep a Register for the Delegates to sign on arrival.
23. Delegate's fees to Conference, if not already sent, shall be paid on signing the Register.
24. Nomination Forms, Telegraph and Money Order Forms should be obtainable at the Enquiry Office.
25. Stamps can be had on payment.
Railway Time Tables shall also be available and Railway timings will be found in the Guide Book.
A supply of stationery on sale will be found at the Enquiry Office

Miscellaneous

26. A list of important Educational and Social Institutions of the 'place where the Conference is held will be found in the Guide (if prepared). If no Guide is available, a list of such institutions shall be posted in the Enquiry Office
Sight-seeing parties may be arranged at the Office.
27. The number of Resolutions for open discussion at the Annual Conference, including both social and educational, shall be restricted, so that more time should be allocated for fuller discussion and suggestion of practical schemes. If time allows other Resolutions (from those to be passed from the Chair) to be taken up for discussion in order of preference as fixed by the Subjects-Committee.
28. The Conference should give more practical shape to the Resolutions through the Executive of the Standing Committee.

History of the Conference

29. A short sketch of the history of the Conference together with a succession list of the Presidents and Chairwomen shall be prepared from time to time and published in the Annual Report as a permanent feature for information and guidance for propaganda

Rules of the A. I. W. E. Fund Assn.

30. The Rules for election to the Governing Body of the All-India Women's Education Fund Association from the A. I. W. C. are to be incorporated in the Annual Report.

Constituency Annual Reports

31. Whereas owing to lack of time certain Constituencies are unable to read their annual reports at the All-

India Women's Conference, the time allowed for each report should be 3 minutes only, and if even then some are left out. these latter should automatically take precedence in the following year without being ballotted

- 32 No statement shall be released for publication on behalf of the conference unless it has been approved by the Standing Committee. It shall always bear, among others, the signature of the Chairwoman and the Organising Secretary.
- 33 Those who pay Rs 500 or over to the Conference shall be Patrons—men or women
- 34 Those who pay Rs. 100 or over shall be Life-Associates—men or women
- 35 Money received from the Patrons and Life-Associates shall be put into the Reserve Fund.
- 36 Only Women Patrons and Life Associates shall be entitled to attend and vote at the open Conference.
- 37 Names of all Donors paying Rs 10 or more for the current year shall be printed in the Annual Report.
- 38 Rs 10 per annum shall be the minimum subscription for every Vice-President
- 39 The year for the Affiliation fee shall be from the 1st November to the 31st October next, every year.
- 40 No visitors, either special or ordinary, be invited to attend any standing committee meeting in future, unless specially authorised by the Standing Committee
- 41 Information sent by Conveners of Sub-Committees or Standing Committee members to be circulated to Standing Committee members will be included in the Hon Organising Secretary's next circular letter to the Standing Committee members, and will not be forwarded by immediate dispatch. No such circulars should be sent by Conveners or Standing Committee members within four weeks before the half yearly meeting of the Standing Committee and none within six weeks before the Annual Session. However, if some very urgent matter is to be circulated outside the prescribed time, it may remain at the discretion of the Hon. Organising Secretary.

Statement for Publication

Patrons

Life Associates

Reserve Fund

Donors

Vice Presidents

Affiliation Fee

Visitors

RULES FOR GUIDANCE FOR THE STARTING OF NEW CONSTITUENCIES.

1. The Organising Secretary or a responsible officer of the A. I. W. C. should be present at the place to be organised

2. Failing an officer of the A. I. W. C., a responsible person who is fully acquainted with the aims and objects and the facts relating to the A. I. W. C. may be deputed by the Chairwoman or Organising Secretary to organise the new Centre

3. The organiser must enlist the sympathy of the women of the place and acquaint them with the aims and objects of the A. I. W. C. and try to hold small meetings before the public meeting

4. Propaganda work may be done by distributing Reports of the A. I. W. C.

5. A public meeting should be organised by one or two leading women of the place, a hall or some suitable place being engaged.

6. All communities and classes of women should be invited to attend the meeting

7. A popular and capable woman should be proposed and seconded to the Chair to preside over the meeting

8. The organiser should give a short history of the A. I. W. C. in the language which would be understood by most of the women attending

9. Reference should be made to the past Annual Sitzings of the A. I. W. C. at Poona, Delhi, Patna, Bombay, Lahore, Madras, Lucknow, Calcutta, Karachi, Trivendrum, Ahmedabad and Nagpur

10. Resolutions passed at the last Annual Conference should be read and explained

11. The policy, aims and objects as laid down in Article II of the Constitution of the A. I. W. C. should be read and explained. Further explanations should be based on the Memorandum

12. A resolution should be duly moved and seconded—that the place or area forms itself into a new Centre and becomes a Constituent Area of the A. I. W. C.

13. The duties of the Standing Committee Member should be read from the Constitution of A. I. W. C. and explained

14. The meeting should elect a capable woman as its Standing Committee Member of A. I. W. C.

15 A Local Committee should be elected to act as the Executive of the Constituent Area formed.

16. A Chairwoman should be elected who will preside over the meetings of the Local Committee

16 (a) A Secretary and a Treasurer should also be appointed

17 The Local Committee should be representative, consisting of at least one member of every community living in that Area

18 Rules for guidance of the Local Committee should be framed or the meeting can delegate the Local Committee to frame the Rules.

19 The meeting should proceed to discuss any important question of that Area affecting women and children, and ask the Local Committee to take such steps as are necessary

20. With a vote of thanks to the Chair the meeting disperses.

21. After the preliminary meeting described above is held at the headquarters, the Standing Committee Member in consultation with the Local Committee should organise similar meetings in the district which will establish branches of the Constituent Area, and appoint a local Chairwoman, a Secretary and a Treasurer, if necessary

22 The following Rules with necessary alterations to suit the conditions of the place should be adopted by the Local Committee who shall place these Rules at the Annual Constituent Conference of that Area for adopting and sending to the Annual Session of the A. I. W. C. for its approval.

Constitution for the Constituent Areas

The name of the organisation will be 'The (name of the place) Women's Conference Committee on Educational and Social Reforms'.

Aims and Objects

1. To carry out the directions and ideals of the All-India Women's Conference

2. To promote education in all stages

3. To deal with questions affecting the welfare of women and children.

Subscription

Membership subscription should be in accordance with local conditions.

Committee

Standing Committee Member (*ex-officio*), should, if possible, be the Secretary.

President (*ex-officio*) One who presides at the Annual Constituent Conference

Chairwoman, To preside over the Local Committee meetings.

Secretary Who should, if possible, be the Standing Committee Member

Joint Secretary (if necessary).

Treasurer

Representative members not exceeding twenty.

Liaison officers representing districts.

Chairwoman, Secretary and all Office-bearers of the A. I. W. C.

Constituent Conference

A Constituent Conference is a public meeting of women in a Constituent Area from which 10 delegates are elected to represent that Area at the All-India Women's Conference. The Constituent Conference should elect at least 10 more to be on the waiting list in order of preference to be sent to the Annual Session of the A. I. W. C. if the first 10 elected delegates fail to go.

A meeting shall fix the headquarters of the Constituent Conference. Sub-conferences may then be started at various localities in that unit which will send delegates to the Constituent Conference.

Affiliation fee

With effect from the year beginning on the 1st November 1936, each Constituent Area shall send a minimum affiliation fee of Rs. 25 as soon as possible after the Annual Session of the All-India Women's Conference and before the half-yearly meeting of the Standing Committee. The fee must be sent to the Honorary Treasurer before the names of the delegates are sent in.

Rules

1. The Local Committee shall meet once a month.
 2. In case of the Chairwoman's absence, the members present shall elect one from among the members to act as Chairwoman for that meeting.
 3. Five members to form a quorum.
 4. The Chairwoman and Secretaries to prepare an Agenda for such meeting.
 5. Subjects on the Agenda shall only be discussed and voted on.
 6. Any member wishing to bring forward a subject shall give a fortnight's notice to the Secretary.
 7. Subjects under discussion to be decided by votes.
 8. The Chairwoman has the casting vote.
 9. Any member absenting herself for three consecutive meetings, without showing good reason, shall be deemed to have vacated her appointment and the Committee shall duly elect another in her place.
 10. Rule 9 shall not apply to co-opted or district members.
 11. Sub-committees shall be formed with Conveners in charge of each section.
 12. The Local Committee shall arrange to hold the Annual Constituent Conference at least seven weeks before the All-India Women's Conference.
 13. Sub-constituent Committees to be informed by the Constituent Committee to hold their meetings, about a fortnight before the Constituent Conference.
 14. The new Standing Committee Member, soon after her return from the A. I. W. C., shall call a meeting in her area to elect the Local (organising) Committee.
-

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| Estimated Income | | | | Estimated Expenditure | | | |
|---|-----------|----|----|---|--------------|-----------|----|
| | Rs | A. | P. | | Rs | A. | P. |
| Fixed Deposit in the Bank of India Ltd | 2,759 | 6 | 0 | Organising Secretary's Office Clerk's Salary | 840-0-0 | | |
| Fixed Deposit in the National Bank of India | 610 | 0 | 0 | Allowance | 360-0-0 | 1,200-0-0 | |
| With the National Bank | 4,212 | 12 | 9 | Stationary | | 300-0-0 | |
| Balance with the Hon Organising Secy. | 303 | 13 | 9 | Postage | | 500-0-0 | |
| Balance with the Educational Sec Sec | 47 | 14 | 0 | Chairwoman's Expenses | | 100-0-0 | |
| Balance with the Social Section Secretary | 45 | 0 | 0 | Two Sectional Secretaries | | 200-0-0 | |
| Balance with Hon, Treasurer | 7 | 15 | 6 | Treasurer's Expenses | | 50-0-0 | |
| Delegates' Fees (half the amount) | 745 | 0 | 0 | Sub-Committees | | 300-0-0 | |
| Estimated proceeds from the Entertainments Reception Committee Contribution | 700 | 0 | 0 | Printing of Annual Report | | 1,000-0-0 | |
| Donations received and promised at Nagpur | 800 | 0 | 0 | Contingencies | | 200-0-0 | |
| Balance of Reception Committee Collections from Travancore | 3,600 | 0 | 0 | Travelling Expenses of Office Clerk and conveyance of Office records for half-yearly and annual meetings etc. | | 360-0-0 | |
| Balance of Reception Committee Collection from Gujarat | 500 | 0 | 0 | Bonus to Clerk | | 100-0-0 | |
| Affiliation fees | 400 | 0 | 0 | Central Office Expenses | | 1,200-0-0 | |
| Life Associates' fees | 750 | 0 | 0 | Allowance of Miss Bhalero | 900/- | | |
| Vice-Presidents' Subscription | 200 | 0 | 0 | Travelling Expenses of Miss Bhalerao | 300/- | | |
| Bank's Interest | 60 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| | 200 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| Total | Rs 15,941 | 14 | | Total | Rs 5,510-0-0 | | |

THE ALL-INDIA Receipts & Payments Account

| | Rs | As | P | Rs | As | P. |
|--|-------|----|---|-------|--------|------|
| <i>To Balance on 1st November 1936 —</i> | | | | | | |
| Fixed Deposits in The Bank of India | 2,711 | 15 | 0 | | | |
| " " " The National Bank | 600 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| With the National Bank | 901 | 6 | 3 | | | |
| With the Present Organising Secretary | 46 | 6 | 0 | | | |
| With the Education Secretary | 47 | 14 | 0 | | | |
| With the Social Secretary | 30 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| With the Honorary Treasurer | 11 | 8 | 6 | 4,349 | 1 | 9 |
| | <hr/> | | | | | |
| „ Registration Fees of Delegates | .. | | | 1,285 | 0 | 0 |
| „ Donations — | | | | | | |
| Reception Committee | | | | 1,368 | 6 | 9 |
| „ Affiliation Fees | | | | 825 | 0 | 0 |
| „ Central Office Fund | | | | 4,286 | 0 | 0 |
| „ Vice-Presidentship Fees | | | | 40 | 0 | 0 |
| „ Constituencies & Sub-constituencies — | | | | | | |
| For Extra copies of circulars | | | | 40 | 0 | 0 |
| „ Sale proceeds of annual reports | | | | 58 | 2 | 0 |
| „ Woman Organiser for Mines | | | | 260 | 0 | 0 |
| „ Kamala Nehru Fund | | | | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| „ Interest on Fixed Deposits | | | | 61 | 2 | 0 |
| | | | | <hr/> | | |
| | | | | Rs | 12,587 | 12 6 |

BOMBAY, 14th December, 1937.

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

for the Year ending 31st October 1937.

| | Rs | As. | P. | R | A | P. |
|--|-------|-----|----|-------|--------|-------|
| By Adjustment of Reception Committee Expenses | | | | 650 | 0 | 0 |
| „ Organising Secretary's Office Expenses * * * | | | | 2,477 | 12 | 3 |
| „ Printing and Stationery | | | | 785 | 0 | 0 |
| „ Social Section Secretary's Expenses | | | | 95 | 0 | 0 |
| „ Educational Secretary's Expenses | | | | 9 | 8 | 0 |
| „ Honorary Treasurer's Expenses | | | | 33 | 9 | 0 |
| „ Convener Anti-Child Marriage Committee Expenses | | | | 28 | 10 | 9 |
| „ Central Office expenses — | | | | | | |
| Miss Bhalerao's salary, travelling and other expenses | | | | 486 | 1 | 0 |
| „ Affiliation Fees to the International Alliance of Women's Suffrage | | | | 27 | 8 | 6 |
| „ Bank Charges | | | | 7 | 13 | 0 |
| | | | | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | | | | 4,600 | 14 | 6 |
| „ Balance as on 31st October 1937 — | | | | | | |
| Fixed Deposits in the Bank of India | 2,759 | 6 | 0 | | | |
| „ „ the National Bank | 610 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| With the National Bank | 4,212 | 12 | 9 | | | |
| With the Present Organising Secretary | 303 | 13 | 9 | | | |
| With the Education Secretary | 47 | 14 | 0 | | | |
| With the Social Secretary | 45 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| With the Honorary Treasurer | 7 | 15 | 6 | 7,986 | 14 | 0 |
| | | | | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | | | | Rs | 12,587 | 12 6 |

* * * Details of the office expenses of the

Honorary Organising Secretary.—

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|----|---|
| Salary of clerk with allowance | 1,200 | 0 | 0 |
| Clerk's Travelling Allowance | 383 | 5 | 3 |
| Telegrams | 31 | 2 | 0 |
| Registration | 10 | 0 | 6 |
| Postage | 335 | 15 | 9 |
| Stationery | 301 | 8 | 3 |
| Repairs to typewriter | 3 | 6 | 0 |
| Miscellaneous | 19 | 2 | 4 |
| Office shifting expenses | 130 | 0 | 2 |
| Furniture | 63 | 4 | 0 |

Rs. 2,477 12 3

Examined and found correct.
Sd/ (Mrs.) G. R. Billimoria
Honorary Treasurer,
All-India Women's Conference.

Sorab S. Engineer & Co,
Incorporated Accountants.
Registered Accountants,
Hon. AUDITORS.

ALL-INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Provisional Time Table For The Year 1938

- Jan. & Feb.** "Echo Meeting" for explaining the work of the annual session held at Nagpur, to be held at any time in January and February, but not later than the end of February. (Vide Bye-Law No. 21 also Nagpur Minutes, Item No. N A. 12).
- March 31.** One nomination from each Constituency and from each of the other Standing Committee Members, not representing Constituencies, for the Presidentship of the Annual Session of the Conference, to be held in 1938, to reach the Hon Organising Secretary before the 31st March (Bye-Law No 40 A, page 203, Nagpur Report). *No nomination received later than 31st March 1938, will be considered.*
- June 15th.** Items for the Agenda of the Half-yearly meeting to be sent by the Standing Committee members to the Hon. Organising Secretary latest by 15th June (Vide Bye-Law No. 31, page 202, Nagpur Report).
Half-yearly reports also to reach the Hon. Organising Secy. by 15.6.38
- July 1st** Voting papers will be sent to the Standing Committee members and they will send their votes for Presidentship for 1938 session by registered post so as to reach the Hon Organising Secretary on or before the 1st July *No Voting paper will be considered valid after that date.* (Vide Bye-Law No 40 A, page 203, Nagpur Report)
- July 15-20** Half-yearly meeting of the Standing Committee to be held at Baroda at any time between 15th and 20th of July provisionally
- August 25th** All resolutions relating to alterations and amendments to the Constitution and Bye-Laws and Regulations of the Conference, if any, suggested by the Standing Committee members, to be sent to the Hon Organising Secretary before the 25th August. (Vide Rule of Procedure No. 1. p. 207, Nagpur Report.)

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Sept 15th to Nov. 8th | Constituent and Sub-Constituent Conference should be held before the 8th November as far as possible. |
| Noy 15th | <p>Resolutions passed at the Constituent and Sub-Constituent Conferences to be sent to the Hon. Organising Secretary and also to to the Sectional Secretaries on or before the 15th November. (Bye-Law No 12, and Rules of Procedure Nos. 2 to 7).</p> <p>Names of delegates and substitutes, names of Standing Committee members and names of two members for the Subjects Committee to be sent to the Hon. Organising Secretary on or before the 15 November (Vide Bye-Law No 1).</p> <p>Items for the Agenda of the annual Standing Committee meeting in December, to be sent to the Hon. Organising Secretary by the 15th of November (Bye-Law No. 31)</p> <p>Constituent and Sub-Constituent Conference reports also are to be sent by the 15th November.</p> |
| December. | <p>The 13th All-India Women's Conference session will be held during the last week of December at Delhi.</p> <p><i>N. B.</i>—The final list of delegates for the annual session should reach the Hon. Organising Secretary and the Reception Committee 15 days before the Conference at the latest.</p> <p>Any change in the above provisional programme will be notified in time.</p> |

Sectional And Sub-Committees.

Sub-Executive Committee :

- Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Chirwoman, Jullundur City, Punjab,
 Mrs. Dina Asana, Hon. Organising Secretary, Opposite Gujarat College,
 Ahmedabad.
 Mrs. G. R. Billimoria, Hon. Treasurer, Thoburn House, Apollo Bunder,
 Bombay.
 Miss Z. Lazarus, Educational Section Secretary, Tumkur, Mysore State.
 Mrs. Sharadaben Mehta, Social Section Secretary, Pntamnagar, Ellis Bridge,
 Ahmedabad.
 Mrs. C. Cornelius, Asaf Zahi Road, Hyderabad (Deccan).
 Begum Hamida Momin, Hamida Hall, Russa, Tollygunge, Calcutta.
 Mrs. Premhila Mehta, C/o. Supdt. R. M. S., Baroda.

Constitution Sub-Committee

Miss Leilamani Naidu (Convener)
 The Golden Threshold, Hyderabad
 (Deccan).

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Jullundur City,
 Punjab.

Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade Gwalior C.I.

Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji, Khairtabad,
 Hyderabad (Deccan).

Mrs. S. C Mukerjee, 9, Lower Rawdon
 Street, Calcutta.

Mrs. G. R Billimoria, Thoburn House,
 Appollo Bunder, Bombay.

Miss D. B. Hasan, Latif Manzil, Panipat,
 Punjab

Mrs. S. N. Ray, 10, Camac Street,
 Calcutta

Dr. Malinibai Sukthankar, Shantaram
 House, Malabar Hill, Bombay,

Educational Section Committee

Miss Z. Lazarus (Sectional Secretary),
 Tumkur, Mysore State.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Jullundur City.
 Dr. Malinibai Sukthankar, Shantaram
 House, Malabar Hill, Bombay,

Miss S. Pandit, Arya Kanya Mahavidya-
 laya, Baroda.

Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade Gwalior, C I,
 Mrs. G. R. Billimoria, Thoburn House,
 Apollo Bunder, Bombay.

Begum Hamida Momin, Hamida Hall,
 Russa, Tollygunge, Calcutta.

Mrs. Urmila Mehta, 15th Road, Khar,
 Bombay.

Miss D. B. Hasan Latif Manzil, Panipat,
 Punjab.

Miss Sara Pothan, Advocate, Trivandrum

Miss Shantabai Daundkar, 17, Bhai
 Jivanji Lane, Thakurdwar, Bombay.

Common Language Sub-Committee

Miss D. B. Hasan (Convener), Latif
 Manzil, Panipat. Punjab,

Begum Hamid Ali, C/o Bank of
 Baroda, Baroda.

Miss J E Copeland C/o Y. W. C A.
Asoka Road, New Delhi.

Shri Gouri Kutty Amma, Secy. S.N V.
Women's Asson, Thycand, Trivan-
drum.

Mrs. T Patwardhan, Seva Sadan
Poona

Mrs. Jyotsna Mehta, 19, Yashvant
Nivas Road, Indore, C. I.

Health Sub-Committee

Dr Mrs Malinibai Sukthankar
(Convener), Shantaram House,
Malabar Hill, Bombay,

Mrs N M Rajji, Tulsi Villa, Alexandra
Road, Gamdevi, Bombay 7

Mrs J R. Doctor, Hirji Mansion, 93,
Gowalia Tank Road, P O. Malabar
Hill, Bombay.

Miss A V. Van Doren, Byramji Road
Nagpur.

Mrs S C Roy, 36, Wellington Street,
Calcutta

Dr. Mrs. K Tarabai, Bunder Road,
Karachi.

Mrs. M B Kagal, 24, Ratendone Road,
New Delhi,

Social Section Committee

Mrs. Shardaben Mehta (Sectional
Secretary), Pritamnagar, Ellis Bridge-
Ahmedabad

Mrs Saudamini Mehta (Convener Anti-
Child Marriage Sub-Committee).

Mrs. Brijlal Nehru (Convener, Harijan
Sub-Committee)

Begum Hamid Ali (Convener, Opium
& other Narcotic Drugs Sub-
Committee

Mrs J R Doctor (Convener, Special
Committee on Legal Disabilities)

Mrs Asaf Ali (Convener, Legislation
Sub-Committee.

Rani Lakshmbai Rajwade (Convener,
Franchise Sub-Committee)

Miss J. E Copeland (Convener, Labour
Sub-Committee).

Mrs N. M Rajji (Convener, Indigenous
Industries Sub-Committee).

Mrs S C Mukerjee (Convener. Traffic
in Women & Children Sub-Committee).

Mrs Barkat Rai, C/o. First Taluqdar,
Aurangabad, Hyderabad (Deccan)

Mrs Kamalamma Dassappa, P O.
Basavangudi, Bangalore City.

Mrs Purnima Banerjee, 41, George
Town, Allahabad.

Mrs S C. Roy, 36, Wellington Street,
Calcutta

Mrs. Ammu Swaminadhan, Gilchrist
Gardens, Chetput, Madras

Mrs S N. Ray, 10, Camac Street,
Calcutta

Miss Indumati Mehta, Khamasa Gate,
Ahmedabad.

Mrs Sarojini Mehta, 74, Telen Kheri
Road, Nagpur

Miss M Masani Versova, Andheri,
Bombay

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Jullunder City,
Punjab

Dr K Tarabai, Bunder Road, Karachi

Mrs S C. Mazumdar, 104, Russa
Road, Tollygunge, Calcutta.

Anti-Child Marriage Sub-Committee*

Mrs. Saudamini Mehta (Convener),
24 Ray Street, P O Elgin Road,
Calcutta

Begum Hamid Ali C/o Bank of
Baroda, Baroda

Mrs N M Rajji, Tulsi Villa, Alexandra
Road, Gamdevi Bombay 7

Mrs S N Ray, 10, Camac Street,
Calcutta

Mrs J R Doctor, Hirji Mansion, 93,

Gowalia Tank Road, P. O. Malabar Hill, Bombay.

Mrs Ammu Swaminadhan, Gilchrist Gardens, Chetput, Madras.

Dr K Farabai Bunder Road, Karachi

Harijan Sub-Committee

Mrs. Brijlal Nehru (Convener), 2 Morris Road, Lahore

Mrs S. C. Roy, 36, Wellington Street, Calcutta

Mrs S Rajammal, Opposite Y.M.C.A., Trivandrum

Lady Nilkanth, Bhadra Ahmedabad

Mrs R. Ramanna, C/o. Asst Sessions Judge, Mysore

Rani Lakshmbai Rajwade, Gwalior, C. I.

Miss Premwati Thapor, I. A, Golf Rd, Lahore.

Miss Soonawalla, Kashinath Building, Khetwadi 7th Lane, Bombay

Miss S Pandit, Arya Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Baroda.

Miss G Gokhale, Servants of India Society's Home, Girgaum, Bombay.

Opium & Other Narcotic Drugs Sub-Committee

Begum Hamid Ali (Convener), C/o. Bank of Baroda, Baroda

Rani Lakshmbai Rajwade, Gwalior, C. I.

Miss Piggot, C. E. Z. M. House, Hyderabad (Sind).

Dr. Mrs K Khadye, 204/2, Sadasiv Peth, Poona City.

Miss J. E. Copeland, C/o. Y. W. C. A. Asoka Road, New Delhi.

Special Committee on Legal Disabilities

Mrs. J R Doctor (Convener), 93,

Gowalia Tank Road, P. O. Malabar Hill, Bombay

Rani Lakshmbai Rajwade, Gwalior, C. I.

Begum Hamid Ali, C/o Bank of Baroda, Baroda

Mrs S N Ray, 10. Camac St, Calcutta.

Mrs S C Mukerjee, 9 Lower Rawdon Street, Calcutta

Dr Mrs. Malinibai Sukthankar, Shantarām House, Malabar Hill, Bombay

Miss L Naidu, The Golden Threshold, Hyderabad (Deccan).

Mrs. C. Cornelius, Azaf Zahi Road, Hyderabad (Deccan).

Miss E J. E. Ennis, Bilashpur, C P.

Mrs. Janakibai Godbole, Phaltan.

Mrs. Durgabai Joshi, M.L.A., Akola, Berar.

Mrs. Deshpande, Congressnagar, Nagpur.

Mrs. Anna Chandy, Munsif, Nagercoil, Trivandrum.

Miss B A Engineer, O B. E., J. P. Sava Sadan, Gamdevi, Grant Road, Bombay.

Mrs. Faiz Tyabji, M L. A., Somerset Lodge, Warden Road, Bombay.

Mrs Lilavati Munshi, M.L.A., "Tavistock," Ridge Road, Bombay.

Legislation Sub-Committee

Mrs Asaf Ali (Convener), Cucha Chelan, Daryagunge, Delhi

Mrs. Hansa Mehta, 16 Altamount Road, Bombay 6

Rani Lakshmbai Rajwade, Gwalior, C I

The Hon'ble Mrs Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, Anand Bhavan, Allahabad.

Mrs. S. N. Ray 10, Camac Street, Calcutta

Lady Shrivastava, Lucknow.

Miss L Naidu, The Golden Thereshold,
Hyderabad (Deccan)

Mrs Rashida Latif, Lahore

Mrs. Shahbuddin, 7 Hungerford St
Calcutta

Mrs A Kale, Dhantoli, Nagpur

Franchise Sub-Committee

Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade (Convener)
Gwalior, C I

Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji, Khairtabad,
Hyderabad (Deccan)

Mrs Hansa Mehta, Altamount Rd.,
Bombay

Miss Monarama Bose, 1/2 Harrish
Mukherjee Road, Gokhale Memo
School, Bhowanipore, Calcutta

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Jullundur City
Mrs S. C Mukerjee, 9 Lower Rawdon
Street, Calcutta

Mrs A Kale, Dhantoli, Nagpur.

Dr Malinibai Sukthankar, Shantaram
House, Malabar Hill, Bombay

Labour Sub-Committee

Miss J E Copeland (Convener), C/o
Y W C A Asoka Road, New
Delhi

Mrs S C Mazumdar, 104, Russa
Road, Tollygunge Calcutta

Mrs Maniben Moolji, Moolji Jetha s
Bungalow, Near Mahalakshmi
Temple, Bombay 6

Mrs J R Vakharia, Belle vue, Ellis
Bridge, Ahmedabad.

Mrs S N Ray, 10 Camac Street,
Calcutta

Miss G Gokhale, C/o Servants of
India Society's Home, Girgaum,
Bombay

Indigenous Industries Sub-Committee

Mrs Jayashri Raiji (Convener). 68,
Nepean Sea Road, Bombay

Mrs Hansa Mehta. 16, Altamount
Road, Bombay.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Jullundur City

Mrs Barkat Rai, C/o First Talukdar,
Aurangabad, Hyderabad (Deccan)

Mrs Kamalamma Dassappa, P O Basa-
vangudi, Bangalore City

Mrs S Trivedi, Sharda Mandir, Ellis
Bridge, Ahmedabad

Traffic in Women & Children Sub-Committee

Mrs S C Mukerjee (Convener)
9, Lower Rawdon Street, Calcutta.

Dr. Mrs Muthulakshmi Reddi, Besant
Avenue, Adyar, Madras.

Mrs Naik. Bachubai Building Parel,
Bombay

Mrs Abhyankar, Mayo Road, Civil
Lines, Nagpur

Miss Allen, Wesley Church Compound,
Hyderabad (Deccan),

Dr K Tarabai, Bunder Road, Karachi.

Finance Sub-Committee

Mrs G R Billhoria (Convener), Thoburn
House, Appollo Bunder, Bombay

Begum Hamid Ali, C/o Bank of
Baroda, Baroda

Mrs Rustomji Faridoonji, Khairtabad,
Hyderabad (Deccan)

Begum Habibullah, 11, Mall Road,
Lucknow.

Mrs S. C Mukerjee, 9 Lower Rawdon
Street Calcutta

Mrs. Mandyam, 114 Visweswarapuram,
Bangalore City

LIST OF CONSTITUENT AND SUB-CONSTITUENT CONFERENCES

| Name | Constituency | President | Secretary | Date |
|---------------|--------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Ezwarda | Andhra | Sri Anman Raja | Sri Subhadramma | 8-11-37 |
| Anantpur | " | Mrs Koti Reddy | Sri Kamalaratnamma | 6-11-37 |
| Bapatla | " | Sri Kanakavalli Thyaramma | Sri V Saraswathamma | 6-11-37 |
| Bellary | " | Sri Padma Chinappa | Mrs Shyam Rao | 30-10-37 |
| Cocanada | " | Mrs V N Kudav | Mrs Papayamma | 9-11-37 |
| Rajahmundry | " | Sri M V Thayaramma | Sri T. Chandramatidevi | 8-11-37 |
| Chittoor | Assam | Mrs. S. P Radhakrishna Naidu | Mrs- Chinnadorai | 12&13-11-37 |
| Shillong | " | Lady Reid | Mrs. Z. Rahman, Mrs S Saleh | 30-10-37 |
| Gauhati | " | Mrs Higgins | Mrs Rajabala Das | — |
| Baroda | Baroda | Mrs Tyabji | Mrs V Ambegaonkar | 22-10-37 |
| Dacca | Bangal East | Mrs F. Shahabuddin | Mrs S. C. Sen | — |
| Comilla | " | Mrs S N Ray | Mrs Indirabai Sathye | 21-10-37 |
| Basim | Berar | Mrs. Sushilabai Kothuwan | Mrs Ksmalabai Korde | — |
| Ghatanjee | " | Mrs. Durgabai Joshi | Mrs Ambutai Mahajani | — |
| Buldana | " | — | Mrs Yashodabai Joshi | — |
| Akola | " | — | Mrs Vidyawati Varma | 3-10-37 |
| Daryapur | " | — | Mrs. Vinodini Shah | — |
| Patna | " | — | Mrs. Urmila Mehta | 6-11-37 |
| Santacruz | Bihar | Mrs. Anasuyabai Kale | Mrs. A Ahmed and | 13-11-37 |
| Bombay | Bombay | Mrs K P. Jayaswal | Mrs. B Chakravarty | — |
| Culcutta | " | Mrs Gangabehen Patel | Miss E J Ennis | 9-11-37 |
| " | Calcutta | Rani Lakshmbai Rajwade | Mrs K Shrivastava | — |
| " | " | Mrs Sarojini Naidu | Mrs. Ramabai Tambe | 16-10-37 |
| Bilaspur | C. P. North | Rani Sahiba of Pandarya | Mrs. K N. Pillai | 30-10-37 |
| Jubbulpore | " | Mrs. S Chitambar | Mrs E. V. Methew and | 6-11-37 |
| Nagpur | C P. South | Mrs. Ramabai Kedar | Miss M. G Menon | 13-12-37 |
| Trichur | Cochin | Mrs. K. M George | Mrs. N. Haldar | 31-10-37 |
| Ernaculam | " | Mrs, E. S R Menon | Mrs. Krishna | 17-9-37 |
| Delhi | Delhi | Mrs Vjayalakshmi Pandit | | |
| Muzaffarnagar | " | Mrs. Asaf Ali | | |
| Simla | " | Rajkumari Amrit Kaur | | |

| Name . | Constituency | President | Secretary | Date |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| Ahmedabad Gwalior | Gujarat Gwalior | Mrs J. Desai Lady Mehta | Mrs Neelkanth Mrs Chincholkar and Mrs Phatak Mrs Leelamoni Naidu Mrs. Jariel | 11-11-37 29-10-37 29-10-37 29&30-10-37 |
| Hyderabad (Du) Aurangabad | Hyderabad Du " | Lady Hydari Lady Ficker and Mrs. Barkat Rai Princess Alkananda Bai Mrs Kamalamma Daryappa Lady Jankabai Sabnis Mrs B Bhaskare | Mrs Jyotsna Mehta Mrs Shrinia Marathe Mrs A. Krimte Mrs A. K. Chanyan Mrs Indirabai Krimkar Mrs. Tarabai Patwardhan Mrs. Nalinibai Chandwadkar Mrs Yamnabai Kirokore Mrs Nandubai Oswal Mrs K. L. Sharada Mrs S. Janakiammal Mrs Shantabai Likhite Mrs Premwati Thapor Mrs P. L. Sondhi | 25&26-10-37 9-10-37 — 17-10-37 20-11-37 21-23-11-37 30-10-37 13-11-37 |
| Indore Dharwar Kolhapur Alibagh Ahmednagar Poona | Indore Karnatak Kolhapur Konkan Maharashtra | Mrs K. Deshpande Mrs. Shantabai Vinchurkar Mrs. Indirabai Phalnisar Mrs Anandibai Shirke Mrs A. P. Nair Lady Mirza Ismail Shrimant S. Laxmi Devi Mrs L. R. Zutshi Rajkumari Amrit Kaur Mrs Jog Mrs. Bithnur Mrs. Desai Mrs. Kairsagar Mrs Kulkarni Mai Hardevibai Miss R. Piggot Shrimathi Meenakshammal Mrs C. P. Skrine | Mrs Giggini Mrs Pawar Miss Tambe Sri. K. Bhagwat Mrs Godbole Mrs. Mullik Miss A. Khemchand Mrs Gomathi Nathan Miss K. C. Annamma and Mrs Kamalabai Velu Pillai Mrs S. Dhar Mrs N. Jordan Begum Aizaz Rasul | 29-9-37 21-9-37 26-9-37 21-9-37 10-10-37 7-11-37 6-11-37 — 3-11-37 5-11-37 — |
| ... Nasik Karlokarwadi Bhusaval Ottapalam Chickmagalur Phaltan Lahore Jullunder Shahapur Shirhatti Terdal Mangalwedha Kavathe Karachi Hyderabad (Sind).. Ettayapuram Trivandrum | ... " " " " " " Malabar Mysore Phaltan Panjab Central. Panjab East Sangli " " " " " " " " Sind " " Tamil Nadu Travancore | ... | | |
| Allahabad Moradabad Lucknow | U. P. Agra U. P. Oudh | The Hon'ble Mrs. V. L. Pandit Mrs Kent The Hon'ble Mrs V. L. Pandit | | |

List of Presidents and Secretaries of Constituent Committees

| Constituency | President | Secretary |
|-----------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Ajmer-Merwara | — | Mrs. L F Massy. |
| Andhra | Mrs M, Cousins | Sri S Subhadramma |
| Assam | Lady Reid | Mrs. A N M Saleh |
| Baroda | Mrs. Krishnabai Patil | Mrs. V. Ambegaonkar |
| Bengal East | Mrs. F Shahabuddin | Mrs. N Mitra |
| Berar | Mrs. F Savitribai Bhat | Mrs Sarojini Inamdar |
| Bihar | — | Mrs Vidyawati Varma |
| Bombay | Mr. G R. Billimoria | Mrs. Urmila Mehta |
| Calcutta | Mrs. P Choudhuri | Mrs. B Chakravarty |
| C P. North | Rani Sahiba of Pandarya | Miss E. J Ennis |
| C.P. South | Mrs Ramabai Kedar | Mrs. Vimalabai Deshpande |
| Cochin | Shrimati V. K Laksmi-Kutty Neityaramma | Mrs E. V. Mathew and Miss M G Menon |
| Delhi | Lady Sircar | Mrs Asaf Ali |
| Gujarat | Lady Neelkanth | Miss Tarangini Nilkanath |
| Gwalior | Lady Mehta | Mrs Chinchani kar |
| Hyderabad (Dn.) | Begum Sahiba Wali-Ud-Dowla | Mrs C Cornelius |
| Indore | Princess Savitribai Saheb | Mrs. Jyotsna Mehta |
| Karnatak | Mrs Indirabai Bhide | Mrs. Shanta Marathe |
| Kolhapur | Mrs Saraswati Bhonsle | Shri Radhabai Kolse |
| Konkan | Mrs. B. Bhaskare | Miss A. K. Cheriyan |
| Maharashtra | Dr. Kamalabai Deshpande | Mrs. Tarabai Patwardhan |
| Malabar | Mrs. K V. Suryanarayana Iyer | Miss K E. Sharada |
| Mysore | Lady Mirza Ismail | Mrs. S. Janakiammal |
| Phaltan | Shrinant S Laxmidevi | Mrs. S Shantabai Likhite |
| Punjab Central | Begum Shah Nawaz | Miss Premwati Thapor |
| Punjab East | Rajkumari Amrit Kaur | Mrs. P. L. Sondhi |
| Sangli | H. H the Rani Saheb of Sangli | Mrs Sumatibai Gokhale |
| Sind | Mai Hardevibai | Dr K Tarabai |
| Tamil Nadu | Shrimathi Meenakshi ammal | Mrs Gomattinathan |
| Travancore | Mrs. N Kunjan Pillai | Miss S Pothan |
| U.P. Agra | Mrs. Mohanlal Nehru | Mrs Akhtar Husain |
| U.P Oudh | Kunwarani Lady Maharaj Singh | Mrs Dhan Singh Choudhuri |

List of Constituent and Sub-Constituent Areas

| | | | |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| Ajmer-Merwara | Ajmer | C. P. North | Jubbulpore |
| | Beawar | | Bilashpur |
| | Kekri | | Narsinghpur |
| Andhra | Bezwada | C P South | Bhandara |
| | Anantapur | | Balaghat |
| | Bapatla | | Betul |
| | Bellary | | Chindwara |
| | Cocanada | | Chanda |
| | Rajahmundry | | Nagpur |
| | Chittoor | | Wardha |
| | Madanapalle | Delhi | Delhi |
| | Vizagapatam | | Muzaffarnagar |
| Assam | Gauhati | | Simla |
| | Shillong | | |
| | Sylhet | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| Bengal East | Dacca | | Anand |
| | Comilla | | Bhavnagar |
| | Brahambaria | | Broach |
| Berar | Akola | | Nadiad |
| | Amraoti | | Surat |
| | Buldana | Karnatak | Dharwar |
| | Yeotmal | Konkan | Alibagh |
| Bengal West | Shantiniketen | | Thana |
| | Chinsurah | | Ratnagiri |
| | Bogra | Madras | Madras |
| Bihar | Bhagalpore | Maharashtra | Ahmednagar |
| | Chapra | | Nagar |
| | Darbhanga | | Nasik |
| | Muzaffarpore | | Poona |
| | Patna | | Satara |
| | Purulia | | Solapur |
| | Purneah | | Kirloskar wada |
| | Ranchi | | Bhusawal |
| Bombay | Santacruz | Malabar | Calicut |
| | Bombay | | Cannanore |
| | Khar | | Tellichery |
| Calcutta | Calcutta | | Ottapalam |

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| N. W. F. P. | Abbottabad | | Madura |
| | Peshawar | | Salem |
| Orissa | Cuttack | | Tanjore |
| | Puri | | Trichinopoly |
| Punjab Central | Amritsar | | Tinnevely |
| | Lahore | U P. (Agra) | Agra |
| Punjab East | Ambala | | Allahabad |
| | Gurgaon | | Benares |
| | Hissar | | Cawnpore |
| | Hoshiarpur | | Bareilly |
| | Jullundur | U. P. (Oudh) | Gonda |
| | Ludhiana | | Hardoi |
| | Rohtak | | Kheri |
| Sind | Hyderabad | | Lakhimpur |
| | Karachi | | Lucknow |
| | Larkana | | Moradabad |
| | Shikapur | | Onao |
| | Sukkur | | Partabgarh |
| Tamil Nadu | Coimbatore | | Rai Bereli |
| | Ettayapur am | | Sitapur |

INDIAN STATES

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|------------|-------------|
| Baroda | Baroda | | Chitaldrug |
| Bikaner | Bikaner | | Davangiri |
| Cochin | Ernaculam | | Hassan |
| | Trichur | | Kolar |
| | Tripunithura | | Mysore |
| Gwalior | Bhind | | Shimoga |
| | Gwalior | | Tumkur |
| | Ujjain | Phaltan | Phaltan |
| Hyderabad (Dn.) | Aurangabad Dn. | Sangli | Kawathe . |
| | Hyderabad | | Mangalwedha |
| Indore | Indore | | Sangli |
| Kashmere | Srinagar | | Shahpur |
| | Jammu | | Shirhatti |
| Kolhapur | Kolhapur | | Terdal |
| Mysore | Bangalore | Travancore | Trivandrum |
| | Chikamagalur | | Nagercoil |

MAP OF INDIA

SHOWING CONSTITUENT AREAS
OF THE
ALL INDIA WOMEN'S
CONFERENCE



CONSTITUENT AREAS

| | |
|-------------|------------|
| B. INDIA | PUNJAB E |
| AJMER | " C |
| ANDHRA | " W |
| ASSAM | SINOH |
| BENGAL E | TAMILNADU |
| " W | UTKAL |
| BERAR | U.P. AGRA |
| BIHAR | U.P. OUDH |
| BOMBAY | STATES |
| CALCUTTA | BARODA |
| C.P. NORTH | BIKANER |
| C.P. SOUTH | COCHIN |
| DELHI | DHAR |
| GUJERAT | GWALIOR |
| KARNATAK | HYDERABAD |
| KONKAN | (DECAN) |
| MADRAS | INDORE |
| MAHARASHTRA | JAIPUR |
| MALABAR | KASHMIR |
| N.W.F.P. | KOTAH |
| KOLHAPUR | MYSORE |
| PHALTAN | SANGLI |
| | TRAVANCORE |

A D P, GWALIOR

NOTES

B I AREAS

INDIAN STATES-
AREAS

The All-India Women's Education Fund Association.

[As the All-India Women's Conference is strongly represented on the Governing body of the All-India Women's Education Fund Association, which came into existence through the Conference after its Delhi session, it recommends this Fund to all those interested in the Development of girls' education along the lines of its Memorandum]

MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION

1. The name of the Association is "The All-India Women's Education Fund Association."

2 The objects for which the Association is established are —

(1) The management of the Fund known as "The All-India Women's Education Fund."

(2) The promotion of the education of the Women and girls of India including—

(a) The aid of any schemes for the furtherance of the education in all its branches, of the women and girls of India as may from time to time be recommended by the Conference known as the All-India Women's Conference or under such other name as the Conference may hereafter be registered (hereinafter and in the Rules and Regulations of the Association referred to as the All-India Women's Conference.)

(b) The institution of propaganda for the education of the women and girls of India

(c) The increase of the supply of better trained teachers, having particular regard to the inclusion of training in domestic subjects

(d) The encouragement of the production of better text-books and attractive and suitable literature in the vernacular.

(e) The exploration and initiation of schemes for the education of children of Kindergarten age, for the extension of suitable education amongst children in rural areas, for the support where possible of approved schemes which already exist, and for the

provision of suitable housing accommodation for women teachers, especially in rural areas.

(f) The extension of facilities in existing educational institutions for courses of training in home-craft, fine arts, domestic science, physical culture and other suitable subjects.

(3) The purchase or acquisition on lease, or in exchange, or on hire or otherwise, of any real or personal property, and any rights or privileges necessary or convenient for the purposes of the Association

(4) The erection, construction, alteration and maintenance of any buildings necessary or convenient for the purposes of the Association.

(5) The sale, improvement, management and development of all or any part of the property of the Association

(6) The promotion and establishment of branches and of other societies or associations with similar objects particularly in the constituent areas of the All-India Women's Conference, and the affiliation or amalgamation of such societies or associations with this Association.

(7) The doing of all other such things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects or any of them.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. MEMBERSHIP

1. There shall be the following grades of members of the Association—

(a) President. (b) Patrons. (c) Vice-Patrons. (d) Life Fellows. (e) Life Members. (f) Members.

2. The President shall be elected at a General Meeting for a period of three years

3. The Patrons of the Association shall be donors of sums amounting in the aggregate to not less than Rs. 20,000, and such other distinguished persons as the Governing Body may think proper to appoint. Every patron shall be at liberty to appoint a representative to attend and vote at the General Meetings of the Association on his or her behalf.

4. Vice-Patrons shall be donors of sums amounting in the aggregate to Rs. 10,000. Life Fellows shall be donors of sums amounting in the aggregate to Rs. 500. Life members shall be donors of sums of not less than Rs 100.

5. Members shall be persons who pay an annual subscription

of not less than Rs 5, Such subscription shall be due in advance on the 1st November in every year

6. The Governing Body may elect any person to honorary membership of any grade in recognition of services rendered to the Association

7. The Honorary Secretary of the Association shall maintain a register of members of the Association and this register shall be open to inspection

II GENERAL MEETING

8. (a) The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held once a year at Delhi at an interval of not less than 10 and not more than 15 months. The Executive Committee, however, shall have power to alter the venue for any special reasons. (Notices of such Annual General Meetings shall be given at least one month before the date fixed, and such notice shall specify the business to be transacted. Members of all grades shall be entitled to attend and to vote on any question that may be submitted to the meeting for determination.)

(b) At such Annual General Meeting the report and balance sheet for the past year, and the budget for the next year, shall be presented and an Auditor appointed for auditing the account of the next year. Any other business may be brought forward with the assent of the Chair

9. (a) An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Association may be convened at any time by the President for any purpose connected with the Association and shall be convened on the written requisition of at least 30 members stating the object of such meeting

(b) At least 18 days' notice shall be given of such meeting, with the agenda to be brought before it, provided that accidental omission to give such notice to any member shall not invalidate any Resolution passed at such meeting, and no business other than that specified in such agenda shall be transacted

(10) (a) All General Meetings of the Association shall be presided over by the President or in her absence by the Chairwoman of the Governing Body, or in absence of both by some other person elected by those present

(b) All questions shall be decided by the votes of the members present, taken by show of hands, but anyone present may demand a division which shall forthwith be taken and the result declared by the officer presiding

(c) In case of equality of votes, the officer presiding shall have a second or casting vote.

III -THE GOVERNING BODY

11. (1) The Governing Body of the Association for the purposes of the Act XXI of 1860 shall consist of the President and 21 members including an Honorary Secretary and an Honorary Treasurer.

(2) From and after the Annual General Meeting of 1938 the Governing Body shall consist of -

(a) the President, the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer

(b) nineteen members of the Association elected as follows -
7 elected by the Association and 12 elected by the Standing Committee of the All India Women's Conference of whom 2 shall be from Indian States

(3) The members of the Governing Body shall all be members of the Fund Association.

(4) Casual vacancies among office holders or members of the Governing Body shall be filled by the Governing Body and any person so chosen shall retain his or her office so long as the vacating member would have retained the same if no vacancy had occurred. In the event of a vacancy or vacancies occurring among those members elected by the Standing Committee of the All India Women's Conference, the Governing Body shall fill it or them from among names submitted to them by the said Standing Committee. No action of the Governing Body which may be otherwise valid, shall be rendered invalid by reason of any such vacancy remaining unfilled, provided, however, that the number of vacancies so remaining unfilled shall not at any time exceed 3 (three). An absence of 12 months out of India shall constitute a vacancy.

(5) The Governing Body shall have power, when necessary, to co-opt persons having expert knowledge in any Branch of the Association's work. The number of persons so co-opted shall not at any one time exceed five. Any co-option shall cease at the will of the Governing Body.

12 The Governing Body shall hold their Annual Meeting on the same day and at the same place as and immediately after the Annual General Meeting of the Association, or at such other place and time as the Executive Committee may decide. The Governing Body shall, at the Annual Meeting, elect from among themselves a Chairwoman who will preside in the absence of the President and a Vice-Chairwoman who in the absence of the Chairwoman shall conduct her duties and exercise her powers. In the absence of both at any meeting, such meeting may elect its own Chairman from those present. Any vacancies in these offices shall be filled up by the Governing Body.

(13) Ordinary meetings of the Governing Body shall be held at such place and time as may be fixed by the Executive Committee. The annual budget and report of the Association shall be considered at one such meeting in each year

(14) An extra ordinary meeting of the Governing Body may be called at any time by the President or Chairwoman.

(15) Upon a requisition in writing made by any five members of the Governing Body stating the object, the President or Chairwoman shall call an extraordinary meeting.

(16) Eighteen day's clear notice of any meeting of the Governing Body, specifying the place, day and hour of the meeting and the general nature of the business to be transacted shall be given to every member of the Governing Body by notice sent under postal certificate, provided that the failure to give such notice to any of the members shall not invalidate any resolution at such meeting.

(17) At a meeting of the Governing Body six members must be present in person to form a quorum.

(18) If no quorum is present within an hour of the time fixed for a meeting of the Governing Body, the meeting shall be held after an interval of 24 hours. If there again be no quorum, only urgent business may be transacted, and at such meeting three members shall form a quorum.

(19) In the event of an equality of votes at any meeting, the presiding officer shall have a second or casting vote.

20. (1) The Governing Body shall at their annual meeting elect the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer. They may also appoint an Honorary Assistant Secretary and an Honorary Assistant Treasurer. These shall not, ex-officio, be members of the Governing Body but in the event of the absence from any meeting of the Secretary or Treasurer they shall act in their respective offices as members of the Governing Body. Persons holding these offices shall be eligible for re-election. Any vacancies in these offices occurring during the year shall be filled up by the Governing Body.

(2) All other appointments shall be made by the Executive Committee.

21. The Governing Body, subject to these Rules, shall have general control of the affairs of the Association with authority to make standing orders regulating its own procedure, the procedure of the Executive Committee, and the powers and duties of its officers. In particular it shall provide for a proper record of all proceedings, and for an accurate account of all receipts and payments to be opened to the inspection of the auditor.

22. In addition to the powers and authorities conferred on them either by Statute or Rules of the Association, the Governing Body shall have power to do all such acts as are to be done by the Association, with the exception of those which by these Rules or by Statute are expressly directed to be done by the Association in General Meeting

IV.--COMMITTEES.

23. The Governing Body shall at their annual meeting elect an Executive Committee of eight members besides the office-bearers. Any vacancies in the elected members of the Executive Committee occurring during the year shall be filled by the Executive Committee.

This Executive Committee will perform the current duties of the Association and such other duties as the Governing Body may prescribe. The transactions of the Executive Committee shall be duly recorded and laid before the Governing Body at its next meeting for information or confirmation. In case of emergency the Executive Committee may perform any duty and exercise any power of the Governing Body. The Executive Committee may appoint any sub-committee and delegate to it any powers which may be necessary, but the proceedings of such sub-committees shall in every case be reported for information or confirmation to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall meet at such time and in such places as they think proper and at all their meetings four shall form a quorum,

24. The Chairwoman, Vice-Chairwoman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, shall be ex-officio members of the Executive Committee. The Honorary Secretary shall be ex-officio member of all Sub-Committees (In the absence of either Honorary Secretary or Honorary Treasurer their Assistants, if any, shall act as members of the Executive Committee and any of Sub-Committee.)

25. (1) All matters affecting the finance of the Association shall be referred to the Executive Committee before being determined by the Governing Body

(2) The Executive Committee shall scrutinise the accounts of the Association and shall consider the Report of the Auditor. It shall also prepare the annual budget and submit it through the Governing Body to the General Meeting of the Association.

26. When a Branch of the Association is formed, or any other body having for its objects the purposes for which the Association is established, desires affiliation, the case shall be examined by the Executive Committee before being submitted to the Governing Body, and no such branch shall be recognised or body affiliated without the vote of the Governing Body. It shall

be a condition of recognition or affiliation that each such branch or body shall have a regularly constituted committee, and shall pay an annual affiliation fee to be fixed by the Governing Body, and that its accounts be audited by an auditor approved by the Governing Body

27 Unless otherwise desired by them, branches and affiliated bodies shall remain independent in the administration of their funds and in the conduct of their operations, but they shall furnish to the Governing Body such reports and information as may be required by the Governing Body and shall assist by correspondence and conference in the furtherance of their common objects. The Governing Body shall have power, subject to the Rules to assist branches and affiliated bodies in such manner and to such an extent as it may consider to be conducive to the objects of the Association.

28 The Governing Body shall be at liberty to appoint 'sub-committees for such purposes and with such powers as they may think proper.

V.—GENERAL.

29, All moneys at any time standing to the credit of the general account which shall not be required for current expenses, and which the Governing Body shall not determine to transfer to the Building or any other account, shall be invested by the Honorary Treasurer, with approval of the Executive Committee, in securities authorised by law for the investment of trust funds.

30 The Bankers of the Association shall be the Imperial Bank of India and also if necessary the Central Bank of India Ltd.

31. The Executive Committee shall provide a seal and also provide for its safe custody, and the seal shall never be used except by the authority of the Executive Committee previously given and in the presence of two Members of the Executive Committee who shall sign every instrument to which the seal is fixed, and every such instrument shall be countersigned by the Honorary Secretary or some other person appointed by the Executive Committee.

32 If any corporation, firm, school, college or body of trustees makes any subscription or donation to the Association, the privileges which such subscription or donation carries shall be exercised by a person whom the above-mentioned may from time to time nominate for a period not exceeding ten years to be determined by the Governing Body.

33. (1) None of these Rules shall be repealed or altered and no new Rules shall be made except by Resolution passed by majority of not less than three-fifths of the members of the Governing Body present at an ordinary meeting and confirmed by Resolution passed by a subsequent General Meeting of the Association

(2) Interpretation of these Rules shall be vested entirely in the Governing Body.

Bye-Laws for the Election of Members to the Governing Body

1. The Executive Committee shall conduct all elections to the Governing Body.

2. Every candidate for election to the Governing Body shall be a member of the Association and shall be nominated by a member of the Association. Nomination forms for membership for the Governing Body shall be posted to each member of the Association in such form and at such time as the Executive Committee may think proper. No person can nominate herself or himself,

3. The nomination forms must be returned to the Honorary Secretary of the Association by the date fixed for that purpose accompanied by the consent in writing of the candidate nominated.

4. All nominations shall be scrutinized by the Executive Committee who shall have absolute discretion to reject any nominee. Notice of the names of all candidates so nominated together with voting papers in the form approved by the Executive Committee and instructions as to voting shall be posted to each member of the Association. The voting papers must be returned to the Honorary Secretary in special envelopes provided only for this purpose by the date fixed in the notice.

5. The voting papers shall be opened and scrutinized at a meeting of the Executive Committee or by the Honorary Secretary and two scrutineers appointed by the Executive Committee. The votes for candidates will be counted separately and the candidate or candidates, as the case may be, receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. In the event of two or more candidates for one vacancy heading the poll with the same number of votes, the chairwoman of the Executive Committee shall exercise a casting vote.

6. The declaration of the Chairwoman of the Executive Committee declaring the candidates elected shall be final, and shall be reported to the Association at the Annual General Meeting. Successful candidates shall be notified immediately of their election.

7. If, during the interval between the posting of the nomination papers and the counting of the votes, a candidate, nominated by a member of the Association, is elected to the Governing Body by the Standing Committee of the All-India Women's Conference her name shall be removed from the voting paper.

8 The standing Committee of the All-India Women's Conference shall have power to nominate not more than 3 [three] names for each vacancy occurring during any year in the Governing Body among its representatives. In the event of these nominations not being sent in to the Honorary Secretary of the Association within one month of the request for such nominations, the Governing Body shall fill the vacancy or vacancies themselves

9 In order to simplify elections for office-holders of the Executive Committee nominations for these should be sent in by the members of the Governing Body to the Honorary Secretary at least 3 [three] days before the Annual General Meeting

List of Patrons and Vice-Patrons of the A. I. W. E. Fund Association

Patrons—

Lady Dorothy Halifax, (Founder),
His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad,
Her Highness the Maharani of Baroda. (Founder).
Mrs. Sarojini Naidu. (Founder).
Sir Victor Sassoon.
Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji. (Founder).

Vice-Patrons—

His Highness the Maharaja Pateshri Prasad Singh.
His Highness the Maharaja Holkar.

History of the All-India Women's Conference

1. Origin of the All-India Women's Conference

The All-India Women's Conference owes its origin to a circular letter from Miss Margaret E Cousins who, in the autumn of 1926, as Secretary of the Women's Indian Association, Adyar Madras, addressed an appeal to women all over the country to form local committees and hold Constituent Conferences in each of the Provinces and in certain other clearly defined districts and Indian States, for the purpose of declaring their views on problems of education.

The original stimulus which gave rise to Mrs. Cousins' letter was an appeal made by the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, at the Prize-Giving function of the Bethune College, Calcutta, in which he called on Indian Women to "*tell us with one voice what they want, and keep on telling us till they get it.*" Mrs A L Huidekoper, an ex-Principal of the Bethune College (who, we are glad to say is still one of our very active members), made use of this appeal as the basis of two articles which were published in *Stri Dharma*, the monthly magazine of the Women's Indian Association, and it was after this that Mrs. Cousins took up the matter in the way just described. Her appeal met with a wide and enthusiastic response, and Constituent Conferences were held in 22 places during the months of September to December, 1926, and the First All-India Women's Conference was organised to take place at Poona, where it was duly held from January 5th to 8th 1927, under the distinguished Presidentship of Her Highness the Maharani Chhannabai Saheb Gaekwar of Baroda,—Mrs Cousins being the first Honorary Organising Secretary. The Resolutions passed at that Conference related almost without exception to education, ranging from matters concerning Primary Schools up to those relating to College and Adult Education. The sole exception was a Resolution condemning the practice of early marriage, as it interfered with education and supporting Sir Hari Singh Gour's Age of Consent Bill, which was then about to come before the Legislative Assembly.

2 The Second Conference.

In 1928, the Second Conference was held in Delhi under the Presidentship of Her Highness the Begum Mother of Bhopal, the proceedings being opened by Her Excellency the Lady Irwin (Lady Halifax). In addition to re-affirming most of the Resolutions of the First Conference, notable Resolutions were passed relating to Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda's Bill for the restraint of Early Marriage, which was at that time under consideration, as well as urging the Government to

give representation to women in the Central Legislature, so that they might be able to express their views on pending measures affecting the interests of women and girls. The Second Conference was noteworthy also as the origin of All-India Fund for Women's Education.

3 The Third Conference

The third Conference, that of 1929, was held at Patna, with Her Highness the Dowager Rani of Mandi as President. It was on this occasion that the scope of the Conference was definitely widened to include Social Reform and a separate Section for Social Reform was created to work on lines parallel to those of the Section concerned with Educational Reform. Three Sub-Committees of the Educational Reform Section were appointed to carry on work throughout the year in the following directions -

- (a) The drafting of a special curriculum for schools, based on the ideals underlying the Resolutions passed by the Conference.
- (b) The revising and creating of new text books
- (c) The investigation of the conditions of the training of teachers in all parts of India. Under the Social Reform Section also a Sub-committee was appointed to carry on the campaign to raise the age of marriage.

4 The Fourth conference -

By 1930, when the Fourth Conference was held in Bombay under the Presidentship of Mrs Sarojini Naidu, the increased efficiency of the organization had become very noticeable and the Honorary Organizing Secretary, Mrs Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya, was able to report the accomplishment of a large amount of very effective work done by the Constituent bodies in many parts of India. Prominent among the list of reforms effected through the support of the Conference and its members was the passing of the Sarda Act which, (while in the opinion of the Conference the age-limits specified in the Act were much too low, and the Act possessed some other obvious defects) was yet a bold step in the right direction. Following up that success the Social Reform Section of the Conference took a very active part in the agitation for Reform of the Laws of Inheritance as affecting women, while on the educational side an immense amount of useful constructive work, in addition to propaganda, was done by local members and committees of the Conference and its Constituencies, in such directions as the opening of new Girls' Schools, Industrial Schools, Schools for children of the Depressed Classes, Adult Education, Prison Visiting, Relief to Women passengers on the Railways, and Child Welfare and Maternity work. A new field of work, that in connection with female labour, was opened up through the opportunity of giving evidence before the Labour Commission, while by the delegation of distinguished members to International Conferences, such as the Berlin International Congress of women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship the work of the Conference became known to women of other countries and *vice versa*.

It was in 1930, that the Committee of the Education Fund which had been registered the year before as "The All-India Women's Education Fund Association," decided to make a full enquiry about a suitable education for girls. An All-India Committee was appointed to investigate this matter. The members of the Committee made enquiries in their own provinces at first and then met together at Panchmarhi, C. P., in July and made their Report.

5. The Fifth conference—

The Fifth Conference was held at Lahore, in 1931 with Dr. (Mrs) Muthulakshmi Reddi as President. Although the year 1930-31 had been one of great difficulties owing to the pre-occupation of the country with political matters, it was nevertheless a year in which the work of the Conference made great forward strides. The number of Constituencies had by this time risen to 33, and many more schools, hostels and centres for adult education were reported as having been started through the efforts of members. The institution of the observance of March 1st as 'Women's day,' and the holding of meetings in almost all the Constituencies on that day to popularise and explain the work of the Conference, was another noteworthy innovation. Vigorous and well-timed propaganda was carried on with a view to safeguarding the Sarda Act from amendments designed to nullify its usefulness, work was continued in the direction of getting the laws of inheritance amended, and new work was undertaken in Baroda towards getting the State to lead the way in putting on the Statute Book a Divorce Act for Hindus. There were increasing signs all over the country that the propaganda of the members of the Conference in their various Constituencies was beginning to bear fruit in the changed attitude of the public towards the amelioration of the conditions of women in general, their better education, their proper representation in legislative and administrative bodies, and in the judiciary as Honorary Magistrates. The question of abolition of untouchability began to be tackled, too, in some Constituencies, notably in Madras, and while the attempt to deal with Labour questions (for which the formation of a special Conference had been contemplated) suffered a temporary set back owing to the disturbed conditions of the times, the keenness of members to tackle that among the other many difficult problems of the day, was intensified rather than diminished.

6. The Sixth Conference—

It was in 1932, when the Conference had Madras as its venue, and its President was Mrs. P. K. Ray, that it was clearly seen that although the constitution of the Conference debarred it from taking part in *Party* politics, it could not, if it were to perform its function of establishing women in their rightful position in the state and in society, avoid concerning itself with politics in the widest sense of the term. The status of women in the new constitution of India, particularly in relation to their fundamental rights, their

representation in the various bodies and the conditions of their enfranchisement, was a matter of vital importance not only to politicians, but to the whole country and it was overwhelmingly felt that every opportunity must be taken before the constitution was actually drawn up in details, to impress upon those concerned in framing it, the views of nearly half of those who would have to abide by it when framed. To this end, in April 1931, a representative meeting was held in Bombay, under the Presidentship of Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, the outcome of which was that the All-India Women's Conference, the Women's Indian Association, and the National Council of Women in India, conjointly drew up a Memorandum to be placed before the Franchise Sub-Committee of the Round Table Conference. In May this Memorandum was submitted to all the Constituencies, with an invitation to them to give their considered opinion upon the views stated therein, and again in its final form, before it was actually submitted to the Franchise Committee, the Memorandum was circulated to the Constituencies, from which no dissentient opinion was received. I need hardly remind you that the essential points which were decided to press in the Memorandum were as follows,

- (1) Equal rights and obligations of all citizens without any bar on account of sex
- (2) No disability to attach to any citizen by reason of his or her religion, caste, creed or sex, in regard to public employment, office of power or honour, and in the exercise of any trade or calling.
- (3) Adult suffrage.
- (4) Women to fight elections on equal terms with men, in mixed general electorates.
- (5) No reservation of seats for women as such, nor special nomination or co-option.

A deputation of ladies belonging to the All India Women's Conference also waited on His Excellency the Viceroy, in May, and presented a Memorial asking for women to be represented on the Round Table Conference.

The Social Reforms Section was kept busy again this year in agitating against the attempts to amend the Sarda Act. Rai Saheb Harbilasji Sarda's Bill to secure a share for Hindu Widows in their husbands' family property was very widely supported in the Constituencies. The year was also noteworthy for the number of laws passed in Indian States, safeguarding women's rights, or enhancing their status.

The work of the Education Section went forward with unabated vigour on the usual lines, progress being made with the scheme for opening a Women's College for Home Science. Educational, Research Teachers The Text book Sub-committee made considerable

arduous labour, as did also the Sub-committees on Labour, and Indigenous Industries.

7. The Seventh Conference.

The Seventh Conference met at Lucknow in 1933 under the Presidentship of Lady Ramanbhai Nilkanth. In the work of the preceding year, that of representing the viewpoint of Indian Womanhood on the constitutional question had remained uppermost, owing to the fact that the Indian Franchise Committee was occupied with its labours in India during the cold season of that year, and the Standing Committee of the Conference felt it obligatory that it should continue to press the views laid down in the Memorandum presented the year before to the Round Table Conference. Nine members of the All-India Women's Conference gave evidence at various centres, that of Rajkumari Amrit Kaur (Chairwoman of the Standing Committee) being specially noteworthy for the firm stand which she made upon the principles laid down in the Memorandum in spite of the fire of searching cross-examination. From the point of view of immediate results, however, those efforts were, alas ! in vain, and the publication of the Communal Award was the signal for an outburst of protests from our Constituencies.

The work of the Social Section went forward apace, in many Constituencies the earnest practical efforts towards the removal of untouchability and caste restrictions proved conclusively, to those who have eyes to see, that women are not-as they are usually supposed to be-the custodians of orthodoxy and conservatism. In many of the State Constituencies as well as those of British India there was a strong movement in favour of providing for divorce in Hindu society, and its equalisation for men and women among Muslims. The promotion of the cause of Swadeshi and of indigenous industries was also a very important feature of the year's work, as was also the number of instances in which members of the Conference were successful in contesting on terms of equality with men, elections for seats on Municipal Corporations and academic bodies of Universities.

The opening of the Lady Irwin College for women, at Delhi, on November 10, 1932, was the event of the year in the Educational Section,— concrete evidence of the value of the work which had quietly and steadily been proceeding since the starting of the Education Fund four years ago. Important as was that event, however one must not allow it to overshadow all the other less spectacular day-to-day work of members in the Constituencies, for without that real underlying zeal for the educational uplift of women, throughout the land, in villages as well as in towns in quiet and devoted care and service, as well as in laying of foundation-stones and presiding over public meeting, our Conference would have never grown into the solid organisation that it now is.

8 The Eighth Conference.

Our Eighth Session was held at Calcutta, Lady Abdul Qadir being the President on that occasion. The most prominent feature of the work of 1933 had again been the political one. Owing to the publication of the White Paper in which it was seen that the attempt made by our representatives while in 1931 and 1932, to gain the equal status had completely failed. It became necessary therefore to frame a second Memorandum in which while it was reiterated that the proposals contained in the first Memorandum provided the only satisfactory solution, the White Paper proposals were examined and a clear statement made as to how far they could be regarded as even an adequate 'second best' or not. This Memorandum was submitted to the Joint Parliamentary Committee of the British parliament, and later, three elected members representing our Conference, as also the National Council of Women in India, and the Women's Indian Association, were invited to London to give evidence before the Joint Parliamentary Committee. Suffice it to say here that through Memorandum II and the firm stand taken by our delegates in giving their evidence, we showed that, while willing to adopt an accommodating attitude in regard to details during the period of transition we stood immovably for the principle of equal status and against that of communal and special representation.

One very useful outcome of the political work outside India has been the many contacts that our delegates made with women's organisations of other countries and with institutions of international scope including the various organisations connected with the League of Nations.

Wider and wider though the scope of our activities has become, it must not be thought that this had the effect of making the current of local work flow more sluggishly. On the contrary, the work of the Educational and Social Reform Sections grows even more intensive as it grows extensive. As a whole our Movement gathers force every day from new streams of local enterprise.

9. The Ninth Conference—

The Ninth Session of the All-India Women's Conference held its sittings in December 1934 at Karachi under the Presidentship of Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji. Practical achievement was the key-note of the Conference in the year 1934—for, in spite of many handicaps particularly of funds and workers the reports of work in the various Constituencies showed that a distinct advance was being made due to the unbounded enthusiasm of the members. For Bihar Earthquake Relief fund the Constituencies of the Conference itself raised over thirty thousand rupees, apart from the fact that they helped in the collection of other Central Funds.

The extracts relating to women in the Report of the Joint Parliamentary

Committee were studied in detail by the Conference, and deep disappointment was felt that the clear demands of Indian women were being ignored and it was decided that even at that eleventh hour efforts should again be made to impress on the British Parliament the united desire of Indian women for a non-communal electorate for women at least-and their dislike of the wife-hood qualification which was being imposed on them. A resolution to this effect was forwarded to the Secretary of the Joint Select Committee and to the Secretary of State for India through the Liaison Officer, and this resolution was re-iterated unanimously at the Half-yearly meeting.

A successful effort was made during the course of the year to create a widespread demand for the appointment of a Commission on the legal disabilities of Indian Women, which would suggest reforms in the light of modern conditions. An All-India Day was held on November 24th, 1934 when meetings were held in every Constituency, and thousands of signatures were collected to support this demand. Until there is success in obtaining a more equitable system of laws, this work will be continued, as the members of the Conference feel that they cannot carry out their duties as citizens until they are hampered by legal restrictions both personal and civic.

The interesting report of the Committee appointed by the Conference to investigate the conditions in mines, and its suggestions regarding the women eliminated from underground work aroused great interest in the conference and the desire there evinced to help the unfortunate women miners showed clearly how real was the claim that the conference aimed at improving the condition of women of all classes.

A notable feature of this year was that for the first time a permanent contact was made with the British Women Organisations. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur was appointed as the Liaison Officer for the Conference to keep in touch with Mrs Lankester the Liaison Officer of the British Women's Organisations appointed for the same purpose. The presence of distinguished Special Visitors like Dr. Maude Royden and Mr Corbett Ashby during the Conference session was a proof of the great interest evinced by women in each others' ideals and problems.

Year by year the activities of the Conference are increasing and the success with which it is tackling every new problem is abundant proof that the women of India are not only conscious of their duties but intend to contribute their due share in the task of Nation-building.

10. The Tenth Conference—

The tenth Session was held in Trivandrum in December 1935 under the presidentship of Her Highness Setu Parvati Bayi Saheba of Travancore. Her

guidance and keen interest in the proceedings of the Conference and in the discussions made this one of the most successful Sessions

It was the first time that the Conference was held in an Indian State, a State where the percentage of literacy amongst women is higher than in any other part of India, where the purdah system is unknown and where women have equal rights and privileges, in other words where women's rights are recognised.

An important feature of the year's work was the tremendous increase in the number of constituencies which have taken up village up-lift work in earnest and have already achieved considerable progress. Rural-work, Maternity and Child welfare centres have been organised and systematic courses of lectures on sanitation and health arranged

The Sub-Committee on the Child Marriage Restraint Act did good work during the year. A Bulletin was issued giving the statistics of child marriages in our country. A good deal of propaganda was done during the year through the Press to create public opinion in favour of amending the Sarda Act. It is a matter of pride to note that Mr B Das was given permission to introduce a Bill in the Legislative Assembly to amend the Sarda Act and most of his amendments were based on the suggestions made by the Conference

The immediate necessity for a common language for India was recognised by the Conference. A Sub-Committee was appointed to report on the ways and means that could be adopted for the realisation of this ideal. Another Sub-Committee was appointed for the spread of literacy in the country. It was realised that unless a concerted and intensive campaign against illiteracy is organised, the moral and material progress of the land is bound to be hampered

The work of the Liaison Group which was appointed for the first time last year has gone on well during the year. The establishment of this contact with the British women's organisations has been of great service to the Conference. The Group as a whole, worked increasingly to press the demand of the Conference concerning franchise and did their best to educate public opinion in England. The Group also arranged busy programmes for Conference members during their stay in England. This gave them an opportunity of speaking about the Conference. Ample publicity was given in English News papers to all they said and did on behalf of the Conference

The Constituencies had collected funds in the previous year for relief of people in Bihar stricken by the earth-quake, this year also funds were raised in the same way for the Quetta Earth-quake Relief. Special mention must be made here of the organised help that was given by the members of

Constituencies in Central Punjab, Sind and North West Frontier Province to the refugees in Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar and other places

With regard to franchise there was nothing much left to be done. All efforts to alter the qualifications for franchise mentioned in the Government of India Bill were of no avail, repeated demands, representations and statements met with but little success and the Government of India Bill was passed into an Act. A resolution was passed reiterating the disapproval of the Conference of the franchise qualifications but urging on the women to use the powers granted to them by the Act however inadequate they may be.

There was a lively discussion on the question of Birth Control during the proceedings of the Tenth Session. The Conference was fortunate in having Mrs. Sanger, one of the prominent workers in the United States of America, whose vast experience and knowledge was helpful. The Conference passed by a large majority the resolution supporting the necessity for instruction in methods of Birth Control through recognised clinics.

Notable visitors from foreign countries, U. S. A., England, Japan and China were present at this Session. It was a source of great encouragement and inspiration to all. The women's cause is the same all over the world and it gave one an opportunity of exchanging ideas and learning one another's experiences.

The number of Constituencies and members had been increasing during the year. The reports of the work done in the different constituencies show that women are taking a much greater interest in social work. The activities had increased and most constituencies had undertaken practical work in some direction.

11. The Eleventh Conference.

The Eleventh Session of the A. I. W. C. was held at Ahmedabad in December 1936 under the Presidentship of Mrs. M. E. Cousins. We entered this year into the second decade of our work. It is gratifying to note from the work of the past ten years that the A. I. W. C. has now taken its rightful place as a representative and fully established women's organisation in India. This year more concentration was given to the need for medical inspection in schools and to the opening of Hostels for girls and for the removal of illiteracy by starting even night schools. The year 1936 should be mentioned for the outstanding event of the year, viz., the opening of the State Temples of Travancore to all classes of Hindus by H. H. the Maharaja of Travancore, when H. H. Maharani Setu Parvati Bai, his illustrious mother, was our President. A great deal of propaganda work was carried out by our Constituencies by holding meetings and enlisting public support for the Social Bills introduced in the Legislative Assembly—e.g., Dr. Deshmukh's Bill to amend the

Hindu Law governing Hindu Women's Right to Property, Mr. B Das's Bill to amend the Sarda Act in order to make it more stringent, Dr. Bhagwan Das's Bill seeking recognition of intercaste marriages, and Mr Hafiz Abdullah's Muslim Personal Law Application Bill,—and to urge their adoption by the Assembly.

Our Constituencies also try to introduce improvements with regard to sanitation, health and education in the villages and this year was also devoted to the uplift of Harijan work, Leper relief, Tuberculosis work, Maternity and child welfare, encouragement of indigenous Industries were also dealt with during the year The Special feature of this year was the work done by our Franchise Sub-Committee for the enrolment of women voters for the new Legislatures, Municipalities and District Boards. At the request of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, a Memorandum on the political, Legal, Social and Educational Status of Women in India was submitted to the League of Nations and the Government of India The question of a Central Office to meet the expansion of our work was also considered and a scheme for the same was also prepared We had this year Special Visitors from England, Australia and other visitors from U. S. A and Holland who attended the conference.

Appendix H

'NIKAHNAMAH' OR AGREEMENT FOR THE MUSLIM WOMEN'S RIGHT TO DIVORCE

[This latest amended form of the Nikahnamah, which is now generally accepted by all the Law Courts of India, is printed in this Report as there is a growing demand for it The Bombay Law Reporter has published it in full, and has cited cases accepting the validity of all the clauses (Vide Bombay Law Reporter, 15th Nov 1936, Vol XXXVIII, Page 12021)]

IT IS HEREBY DECLARED that all the clauses herein contained were and are of the essence of the Marriage Contract celebrated between A (hereinafter called the husband) and B (hereinafter called the wife) on the—

day of ——— but if any or all the provisions herein contained are invalid in law they shall not effect the validity of the said marriage contract. Where there is any conflict between the provisions herein contained and the provisions of any other contract arrived at between the husband and the wife, the provisions herein contained shall prevail.

1. The wife shall have the power of pronouncing a divorce between the husband and the wife so as to dissolve the said marriage contract provided,

- (i) that the wife shall have no power to divorce the husband unless.
 - (a) the husband goes through the form of marriage with another wife or wives;
 - (b) the husband deserts the wife for a period of 3 years or more;
 - (c) the husband fails to maintain the wife for a period of one continuous year, or if this period is not continuous, for periods which in the aggregate amount to one year, provided that all of such periods occur within a continuous period of 3 years,
 - (d) it is proved to the satisfaction of X and Y that the husband commits adultery or keeps a mistress.
- (ii) that the wife shall have no power to divorce the husband unless such power is exercised within a period of three years next following the happening of any of the contingencies mentioned in Sub-clause (i).
- (iii) that the wife shall have no power to divorce the husband unless such power is exercised in the manner following; the wife shall declare in the presence of 3 respectable persons that she exercises the power given to her to divorce.

If the husband divorces the wife, the form of divorce will be "Ahsan".

2. The dissolution of marriage shall take effect from the date of the declaration made in accordance with Clause 1, Sub-Clause (iii).

3. The wife's power to divorce the husband shall not be affected by the wife having failed on one or more prior occasion to have exercised such power.

4. In case some of the provisions herein contained are invalid in law, they shall not affect the validity of the other provisions herein contained.

MESSAGES.

"Deeply regret impossible accept invitation. Very best wishes for Twelfth Session You are already assured of my support and encouragement"

Lady Dorothy Halifax.

"Regret cannot attend Conference as I am not keeping well. Wish you all success"

H. H. the Maharani of of Baroda.

"I have been too ill All my good wishes with you dear sisters"

H H Maharani Sucharu Devi of Mayurbhanj.

"It is certainly a momentous session, presided as it is by my friend Rajkumari Amrit Kaur who I have no doubt will steer the ship into safe waters. My message of goodwill and the success of the Conference is with you"

Maharani Lalita Kumari of Vizianagaram.

"We congratulate the Conference on the choice of its President, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, and we are confident that under her able guidance, the Conference would be a glorious success"

Dr Muthulakshmi Reddi.

"Kindly convey my heartiest good wishes for success of Nagpur Session and my deep regret for inability to be present".

Lady Abdul Quadir.

"Hope for the best and wish you all every success".

Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji.

"I wish to say how greatly I regret my inability to be present. May I request you to convey to the Conference my very best wishes for its success".

H. H. Maharani Setu Parvati Bayi of Travancore.

"In spirit I shall be with you and I send the Conference all my best wishes for a very successful annual session under the Presidency of Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, who has shown herself so dedicated to the service of our Conference work".

Mrs. M. E. Cousins.

"I send my warmest greetings to the women of India, with whom I sincerely regret my inability to be present in Conference today, may unity triumph over all difficulties for the perfect translation of dreams into deeds, in the service of this great country which we all love".

H. H. Princess Durr
Princess

"Much regret inability to attend Conference, wish every success under your able Presidentship".
H. H the Rani Saheb of Sangli.

"Wishing your Conference all success and prosperity"
The Dowager Maharani Saheb of Narsingpur

"Regret inability to attend. Wish Conference all success"
Lady Akbar Hydari

"Sincere wishes for the success of the Conference",
Lady Mirza Ismail

"I have watched the progress of the All-India women's Conference with great interest. Though physically unable to attend the Conference I am there in spirit with you all and I wish the Conference every success".
Lady Yasodabai Joshi

"I am always with you in spirit. I send my best wishes for the success of the Conference. May we grow from more to more in our usefulness to the country in general and our country women in particular".
Mrs Brijlal Nehru.

"Extremely sorry unable to attend the Session owing to my husband's serious illness. Wish Conference every success".
Begum Shah Nawaz

"I regret my inability to attend the Conference. I wish it all success. I feel sure that the Twelfth Session under the able guidance of its distinguished President will prove a landmark in the history of the Conference".
Mrs Hansa Mehta

"Indisposed, unable to come, wish Conference success".
Shrimati Kamaladevi.

"Greetings to Conference".
Miss Agatha Harrison, London

"Very sorry unable to go to India this year, greetings and best wishes for success of Women's Congress"
Mrs Gertrude Ely of American National Assn

"We value the links between our two organisations that have been strengthened by the presence of Mrs. Hamid Ali at the Luhacovice Congress.

To the Indian women assembled at Nagpur we send our warmest greetings and good wishes, assuring them of our continued co-operation".

Mrs Duncan Harris, Chairman of Executive Committee, and Mrs. Graham Polak, Chairman of India Sub-Committee of the *Women's International League*.

"National Y. W. C. A. sends good wishes for successful Conference".

Miss Jean Begg.

"Trust this Conference will advance women's cause rapidly, wishing every success". Shrimati Manutai Bapat, Secretary, Ladies' Home class, Akola.

"The Liaison Group sends its good wishes in a very practical form this year through the Liaison Officer, Mrs Lankester"

Liaison Group in England.

"The Women's Freedom League sends its heartiest good wishes to the All-India Women's Conference and sincerely hopes that their work will be entirely successful"

Florence Underwood.

"I am exceedingly sorry, I am not able to accept the kind invitation extended to me by the A I. W. C. I have not been very well. Please excuse me and make proper apologies on my behalf. I am very much disappointed."

Mrs Faiz B. Tyabji, M. L. A.

"Very hearty good wishes for the unqualified success of the Conference"

Rajmata Parvati Kunwarri of Ramnagar, M. L. A., U. P.

"I wish the Conference all success and under the Presidentship of Rajkumari Amrit Kaur I know it will take us ahead and show us the correct way to our goal".

Mrs Uma Nehru, M.L.A., U. P.

"I wish the Conference every success and assure you always of my best co-operation"

Mrs. J. G. Allana, M.L.A., Sind.

"With best wishes for the Conference and with renewed grateful thanks for the honour done to me... .."

Mrs. Hazina Murshed, M L. A., Bengal.

"I wish the Conference success and hope that the Conference will give a lead to matters of national importance"

Mrs Durgabai Jozhi, M.L.A. C. P. & P. & R.

" Best wishes for the Conference ".

Miss Mona Hensman, M. L. C., Madras

" I am very sorry I am unable to accept your kind invitation for reason of health Thank you very much ".

Mrs. Annapurnabai Deshmukh, M.L A., Bombay

" Sorry unable to attend owing to Ladies' Conference here; wish your Conference success".

Miss Jethiben Sipahimalani, M.L.A., Sind.

" I wish you all every success in your deliberations for the great cause of our womanhood of India".

Mrs Z. A Rahman, M.L C., Assam.

" I wish the Conference every success and pray to God that the work done by the Conference will prove helpful to the womanhood of India ".

Srimati A. Lakshmibai, M.L A., Orissa

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